



## Championship Cup Regulations 2018-19

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## 1. Definitions

<b>Anti-Doping Regulations</b>	means all or part of those rules, regulations or policies and/or procedures for implementation thereof or testing thereunder published from time to time by World Rugby and/or RFU;
<b>Appeal Panel</b>	means a panel appointed by the RFU in accordance with RFU Regulation 19 ('Discipline');
<b>Away Club</b>	means the opposition Club in a Match against the Home Club;
<b>Broadcasting Agreements</b>	any agreement entered into by the RFU in relation to the Broadcasting of Matches;
<b>Broadcast Partner</b>	means the Commercial Partners to whom the RFU has granted Broadcast Rights;
<b>Broadcast Rights</b>	means the right to attend at and to film, record and/or transmit audio and audio-visual signals of Matches and other content relating to the Competition;
<b>Championship</b>	means the second top league in England comprising twelve Clubs (Level 2 of RFU Leagues) and a 'Championship Club' or 'Club' shall mean a Club participating in that league in Season 2018-2019;
<b>Citing Commissioner</b>	any person appointed by the RFU to review a match from a citing perspective;
<b>Club</b>	means an English Championship Club participating in the Competition;
<b>Competition</b>	means the Championship Cup to which these Regulations apply;
<b>Commercial Partner</b>	means a party designated by the RFU to whom the RFU has licensed any of the Commercial Rights;
<b>Commercial Rights</b>	means any and all sponsorship and other commercial rights in and to the Competition and the Matches (including the rights granted to the Title Sponsor pursuant to the Title Sponsorship Agreement, the Broadcast Rights and other rights), any material produced in connection therewith or as a consequence thereof, and all rights relating to the Marks;
<b>Disciplinary Regulations</b>	means those disciplinary rules, regulations and procedures set out or referred to in these Regulations and Appendix 3 to these Regulations;
<b>Foreign Player</b>	as defined in RFU Regulation 1;
<b>Home Club</b>	shall mean in relation to a Match (save for the Final), the Club on whose ground such Match is played or should have been played;
<b>Marks</b>	means the trade marks, names, logos and titles of the RFU and/or the Competition;
<b>Match or Competition Match</b>	means a Match played in the Competition and to which these Regulations apply;
<b>Match Official</b>	means any person appointed by the relevant authority to officiate upon a match including a referee, assistant referee, and where

	appointed a television match official, a fourth official and any others appointed to assist with the management of a Match;
<b>“Professional Game Head Injury Assessment Review”</b>	The head injury assessment review which applies to the Championship Clubs, the process for which is provided to the Club;
<b>Regulations</b>	means these Regulations of the Championship Cup;
<b>RFU</b>	means the Rugby Football Union;
<b>RFU Disciplinary Hearings Manager</b>	means the person appointed by the RFU as Disciplinary Hearings Manager who is responsible for the administration of judicial matters who for the purposes of these regulations reports to the RFU Head of Judiciary and acts on his/her behalf, or such other person to whom the RFU Disciplinary Hearings Manager may delegate authority to act on his/her behalf;
<b>RFU Head of Discipline</b>	means the person appointed by the RFU as Head of Discipline who is responsible for the administration of disciplinary matters or such other person to whom the RFU Head of Discipline may delegate authority to act on his behalf;
<b>RFU Head of Judiciary</b>	means the independent person appointed by the RFU as Head of the Rugby Judiciary or such other person to whom the RFU Head of Judiciary may delegate authority to act on his/her behalf;
<b>RFU Leagues</b>	as defined in RFU Regulation 1;
<b>Sponsorship Agreement</b>	means the commercial agreement or agreements entered into or to be entered into relating to the sponsorship of the Competition or relating to other commercial rights arising in relation to the Competition;
<b>Time Keeper</b>	The person appointed to act as the time keeper for a Match, if applicable;
<b>Tournament Organiser</b>	means such person (if any) as the RFU appoints to be responsible for the management organisation and operation of the Competition in accordance with these Regulations;
<b>Union</b>	means the RFU and such other governing body of the game of Rugby Union who is a member of World Rugby;
<b>Weekend</b>	Any Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Public Holiday;
<b>World Rugby</b>	means the world governing body of the game of Rugby Union of which the RFU is a member; and

Any terms not defined in these Regulations shall have the meanings set out in RFU Regulation 1 or in the RFU Rules (as applicable).

## **2. Interpretation**

2.1 Where the context so admits:

- (i) words importing the singular shall include the plural and vice versa;
- (ii) words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender; and

(iii) words importing persons shall include firms, corporations and unincorporated associations.

2.2 Section, Regulation and Appendix headings are for ease of reference only and shall not affect the construction of these Regulations.

### **3. Governance & Administration**

3.1 The RFU shall be responsible for of the Competition and shall have the power to delegate any of its powers, duties or obligations under these Regulations to the Tournament Organiser.

3.2 These Regulations are supplemental to the RFU Regulations which, for the avoidance of doubt, shall have full force and effect save to the extent that the RFU Regulations are varied by these Regulations. In the event of conflict between these Regulations and the RFU Regulations, these Regulations will prevail and the RFU Regulations (to the extent that they affect the Clubs) are deemed varied by these Regulations.

3.3 If any of the provisions of these Regulations shall be found to be void or unenforceable, such provisions shall be deemed to be deleted from these Regulations and the remaining provisions of these Regulations shall continue in full force and effect and the RFU shall use its reasonable endeavours to procure that such provision is replaced by a provision which is valid and enforceable and which gives effect to the spirit of these Regulations.

### **4. The Competition**

4.1 The Competition shall be called 'The Championship Cup' or such other name the RFU may decide which may include the name of the sponsor and shall be played between the twelve English Championship Clubs.

4.2 All matches in the Competition shall be played in accordance with these Regulations, the World Rugby Laws of the Game of Rugby Union Football and World Rugby Regulations (including such Law trials and other variations as may be agreed by the RFU and the Club agrees to cooperate in full with any such law trials and variations).

4.3 The Competition will be played in two stages, the pool stage and the knock-out stage.

#### The pool stage

4.4 For the pool stage, the Clubs will be divided into three pools of four Clubs each as set out below:

<b>Pool 1</b>	<b>Pool 2</b>	<b>Pool 3</b>
Coventry Doncaster Knights Nottingham Rugby Yorkshire Carnegie	Ealing Trailfinders Jersey Reds London Scottish Richmond	Bedford Blues Cornish Pirates Hartpury College London Irish

4.5 Each Club shall play the other Clubs within its pool both at home and away.

4.6 The following points shall be awarded based on the results of each pool Match (such points to be referred to as "Competition Points" to distinguish them from points scored on the field of play):

4.6.1 The Club that wins the Match shall be awarded four Competition Points or (if it scores four tries or more in the process) five points.

- 4.6.2 The Club that loses the Match shall be awarded no Competition Points or if it scores four tries or more in the process or loses by a margin of seven points or fewer one Match Point or if it scores four tries or more in the process and loses by a margin of seven points or fewer two Competition Points.
- 4.6.3 Clubs that draw a Match shall each be awarded two Competition Points and any of them that scores four tries or more in the process shall also be awarded a further one Competition Point.
- 4.7 The pool winners, runners-up and the two best third placed teams will qualify for the knock-out stage. The pool winners will be decided by reference to the following criteria:
- 4.7.1 The three pool winners shall be ranked 1-3 in each case based on the number of Competition Points earned in the pool stage. The three runners-up and two best third placed teams shall be ranked 4-8 in each case based on the number of Competition Points earned in the pool stage.
- 4.7.2 If two or more Clubs in the same pool end the pool stage equal on Competition Points, then the order in which they have finished will be determined by:
- i. the greater number of matches won by the Club and
  - ii. if the number of matches won is equal, the Club with the greater total number of tries scored and
  - iii. if the total number of tries scored is equal, the Club with the greater points difference (points scored for, less points scored against) and
  - iv. if the points difference is equal, the Club with the fewer number of red cards and
  - v. if the number of red cards is the same, the Tournament Organisers shall toss a coin.

The knock-out stage:

- 4.8 The knock-out stage shall be divided into four quarter-final Matches, two semi-final Matches and a final Match.
- 4.9 The quarter-final Matches shall comprise of the top two Clubs from each pool and the two highest ranking third place Clubs across all the pools, in all cases as ranked in accordance with the principles set out in 4.7 above. The winning Club of each pool and the highest ranked second place Club across all pools will play at home as follows:
- Quarter-final 1: Seed 1 vs. Seed 8
  - Quarter-final 2: Seed 2 vs. Seed 7
  - Quarter-final 3: Seed 3 vs. Seed 6
  - Quarter-final 4: Seed 4 vs. Seed 5

The Tournament Organiser will adjust the quarter-final draw above in order to ensure teams from the same pool do not play each other.

- 4.10 The semi-final Matches shall comprise the winners of each quarter-final who shall play each other as follows and the first Club listed in each of the semi-final matches shall be the Home Club:

- Semi-final 1: Quarter-final 1 vs. Quarter-final 4
- Semi-final 2: Quarter-final 2 vs. Quarter-final 3

If possible, the Tournament Organiser may adjust the semi-final draw above in order to ensure teams from the same pool do not play each other.

- 4.11 The winners of the two semi-final Matches will proceed to the cup final. The cup final will be played at a venue determined by the Tournament Organiser in accordance with Regulation 5.4.
- 4.12 In the quarter-finals, semi-finals and the final, if after 40 minutes of play each way the scores are level, there shall be a five minute break (where the teams and players shall remain on the pitch) and then a period of extra time shall begin between the teams of 10 minutes each way, with a 1 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 Appendix One) to determine the winner.

## **5. Fixtures & Kick-off Times**

- 5.1 Subject to Regulation 5.6, pool Matches will kick off between 6pm (GMT) on Friday and 5pm (GMT) on Sunday on the following weekends other than Round 6 (when Matches must be played on Saturday 15 December 2018 and must kick-off at 2pm, unless otherwise agreed by the Committee):
- Round 1 – 9–11 November 2018
  - Round 2 – 16-18 November 2018
  - Round 3 – 23-25 November 2018
  - Round 4 – 30 November-2 December 2018
  - Round 5 – 7-9 December 2018
  - Round 6 – 15 December 2018
- 5.2 All Clubs shall confirm to the Tournament Organiser the dates and kick off times of the fixtures on the weekends listed above.
- 5.3 The quarter-finals shall be on weekend of 1-3 February 2019, the semi-finals shall be on weekend of 22-24 February 2019 and the final shall be on 3-5 May 2019
- 5.4 The Tournament Organiser will take the decision on the location of the final venue with regard to the best interests of the Clubs participating in the competition and other commercial issues.
- 5.5 In relation to a Match televised live, the Tournament Organiser shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, determine the day on the published weekend and the time of kick off for such Championship Cup Match and notify the relevant Clubs.
- 5.6 Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Regulations, the Tournament Organiser shall have the absolute right to select or alter the proposed date or kick-off time.
- 5.7 All Matches shall be of 80 minutes duration, divided into two halves of 40 minutes each. In all matches other than televised Matches, the interval between each of the two halves shall be 15 minutes (unless both teams agree to a shorter interval and the broadcaster so agrees in respect of matches which are being broadcast) during which time the teams may leave the pitch. For televised Matches the Broadcaster may determine the duration of the half-time interval.

#### Non-Fulfilment of fixture obligations

- 5.8 Each Club must comply with the schedule of pitch inspections agreed by the Tournament Organiser and the RFU's Head of Elite Referee Development in the days leading into any Match and on the day of the scheduled Match.
- 5.9 In adverse weather conditions, each Club must notify the Tournament Organiser of any concern in relation to the condition of the pitch and notify the Tournament Organiser of the steps it has taken to minimize disruption to any Match. The Club must retain regular contact with both the Tournament Organiser and the RFU's Head of Elite Referee Development in relation to the condition of the pitch. The Tournament Organiser may exercise its powers under Regulation 5.8 to require a Club to take appropriate action to ensure its pitch is being maintained to an adequate standard. It is the responsibility of the Home Club to monitor the weather conditions in the week leading into any Match.
- 5.10 The Referee shall determine if the ground is fit for play. Wherever possible, that decision will be made by the Match Referee at least 3 hours before the scheduled kick off. However, where there is a possibility that conditions could change and the pitch be fit to allow the Match to go ahead, the Referee or other identified official, may decide to delay any decision until any time prior to kick off. If one team refuses to play it may be subject to disciplinary action and the burden of proof will be placed upon the Club who decided not to play to give an acceptable rationale for not playing.

#### Abandoned Matches – weather conditions

- 5.11 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 Referee and the Home Club (other than in the knock-out stage) to verbally advise the Tournament Organiser of the reason for non-playing or non-completion of the Match immediately following the abandonment and to provide the Tournament Organiser with a written report within 24 hours of the abandonment unless an extended period has been specified by the Tournament Organiser. The Tournament Organiser will determine if the Match will be replayed on a date specified by the Tournament Organiser (having first consulted with the RFU's Professional Rugby Director or whether the result will stand.
- 5.12 Following the notification of the abandonment of the Match from the Referee and having obtained advice in relation to the forecasted local weather conditions and being in receipt of any other information deemed by the Tournament Organiser to be relevant, the Tournament Organiser may determine that the pitch could be playable the following day and may require the away team to remain in the immediate vicinity of the ground for a further 24 hours.
- 5.13 If the Tournament Organiser, in its absolute discretion, determines that the Match may be playable within approximately 24 hours following any postponement, the Home Club must have made all necessary health and safety arrangements and arranged appropriate stewarding to ensure that the Match can be played if the pitch is passed fit by the Referee.
- 5.14 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.

#### Abandoned Matches – any reason other than weather

- 5.15 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 the Tournament Organiser in its absolute discretion but subject

to the right of the affected Clubs to appeal the decision pursuant to Regulation 14. The Tournament Organiser may order the Match to be replayed in which event the Match will take place on a date specified by the Tournament Organiser (having consulted first with the RFU's Professional Rugby Director).

#### Failure To Fulfil Obligations

- 5.16 No Club shall, without just cause (it being for the Tournament Organiser, to determine whether or not just cause exists), fail to fulfil its fixture obligations in respect of a Match on the date and at the time appointed for such fixture.
- 5.17 In the event that a Club shall so fail to fulfil its fixture obligations in respect of a Match the Tournament Organiser may, and subject to the Club's right of appeal pursuant to Regulation 14, in its absolute discretion in the case of pool Matches award the league points to either side, divide the league points between the sides or decide that no league points shall be awarded. If the Tournament Organiser is of the view that a Club has unjustifiably failed to fulfil its fixture obligations in respect of a Match, it may in the case of Championship Cup Matches deduct league points from the Club and/or in the case of all Matches make an order for a fine to be imposed and/or award compensation and/or award the result of the Match to the other Club. In addition or instead it may order the Match to be postponed or re-arranged or replayed on a date specified by it. All decisions made by the Tournament Organiser pursuant to this Regulation 5.17 shall be subject to the right of the affected Clubs to appeal the decision pursuant to Regulation 14.
- 5.18 Any Club which is suspended from playing rugby union football for disciplinary reasons will not be permitted to re-arrange any Match falling within the period of the suspension. The effects thereof on the non-offending Clubs in the Championship Cup shall be dealt with by the RFU (having consulted with the Tournament Organiser) in its absolute discretion but subject to a right of appeal by any affected Club.
- 5.19 In addition to whether or not a penalty is imposed upon a Club by the Tournament Organiser or the RFU, where in the opinion of the RFU the Club has failed to honour its Match obligations, a Club shall 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 the Tournament Organiser and a Club may appeal the compensation award in accordance with Regulation 14.

## **6. Player Eligibility & Match Squads**

(NB: It is for the participating Club to ensure it complies with this Regulation 6)

- 6.1 Subject to Regulations 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5 a Club in a Match may only play or select as a replacement or substitute players who:
- 6.1.1 on the day of the match are permitted under the regulations of the RFU to play a match in the Championship; and
- 6.1.2 does not have a contract and/or registration with any other rugby union body, entity or club such as would prevent the player from playing for the Club or in the Competition at the date of the Match.
- 6.2 The record held by the RFU is the only and conclusive evidence of a player's eligibility in relation to a Club (save in the case of such registration having been made as a result of inaccurate, false or misleading information having been provided in which case the player will



not be eligible) and if a player is on the match result card but not on the RFU's record as being eligible to play for a Club, that player will be deemed ineligible.

- 6.3 A Club may not be represented in the Competition by any person who has played or been a replacement or substitute (i.e. included in the match squad) for another Club in the Competition in the current season.
- 6.4 A Club may not play or select as a replacement in any Match more than two Foreign Players and more than three Loan Players.
- 6.5 A Club may only play or select as a replacement in the knock-out stage players that have been selected in a match day squad in the pool stage.
- 6.6 Notwithstanding any other provision in these Regulations, no Player may participate in the Competition whilst serving a disciplinary suspension imposed under the Disciplinary Regulations or by his Club, the Union with jurisdiction over his Club, or any other competent party, whether such suspension has been imposed pursuant to these Regulations, the rules or regulations of that Club or Union, the rules of any other rugby union competition, World Rugby or the Regulations relating to the Game.

#### Match Squads – Replacements

- 6.7 In each Match up to seven (7) replacements and substitutes are permitted in accordance with World Rugby Law 3 and World Rugby resolutions/rulings/directives relating thereto and the Clubs shall comply with such Law and resolutions/rulings/directives.
- 6.8 In the interests of safety each team playing in the Championship Cup must have at least five (5) fit and able Players in the squad who can play at hooker, tight head prop and loose head prop who are suitably trained and experienced to ensure that on the first occasion that a replacement prop is required and on the first occasion that a replacement hooker 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.
- 6.9 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.
- 6.10 If a Match is completed or contained uncontested scrums, the Club that was responsible for causing uncontested scrums must upon the request of the Tournament Organiser provide to the Tournament Organiser such information as it may require including if requested a medical report identifying the injuries sustained by its front row Players which must be signed by the Club Doctor. The Tournament Organiser may take such action it deems appropriate in respect of any suspected, alleged or actual breach of Regulations 6.7 to 6.10 and shall notify all Clubs of any action taken, if any. Any Club may appeal against the decision of the Tournament Organiser in accordance with Regulation 14.

#### Match Squads – Announcements

- 6.11 Each Club shall announce the team selected to represent it in a particular Match (numbered in accordance with World Rugby Regulations as if the Match were an international match) to the Tournament Director and/or his designee and to the media no later than 12 noon on Friday

before Sunday or Monday Matches and, in the case of Matches taking place on any other days, no later than 12 noon on the day immediately prior to such Match.

- 6.12 Any changes to a team selected for a particular Match caused by legitimate injury or illness to a player after the official announcement detailed in Regulation 6.11 must be communicated to the Tournament Organiser via its communications department, to the media and to the public via Club controlled social media platforms, as soon as reasonably practicable before the Match and in any event promptly upon the Club becoming aware of the need for such change.

## **7. Match Result Card**

- 7.1 An authorised representative of a Club participating in a Match must submit to the Referee for such Match, at least one hour before the kick-off time for such Match, an accurate Match Result Card (in paper or electronic format) 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.
- 7.2 If a Player on the Match Result Card submitted to the Referee in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 3.5(a) sustains an injury after such Match Result Card is submitted to the Referee but before kick-off of the Match, he may be replaced by another Player and the Referee must be informed of this immediately and such Match Result Card must be amended accordingly. Should the status of a substitution alter to be a replacement either during or after the match, the Match Result Card must be amended to reflect any such change.
- 7.3 The Home Club shall, within one hour after the end of the Match, complete and sign (by electronic signature) the Match Result Card and submit it to the designated RFU department and such person or agency as may be determined and notified to the Clubs from time to time. The Referee and Away Club shall also sign (or initial) the Match Result Card for further certification.
- 7.4 The online electronically generated Match Result Card (which may also include the online electronically generated version) 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.

### *NOTE:*

*ONCE THE MATCH RESULT CARD HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE REFEREE (OR HIS DESIGNEE) IT CANNOT BE ALTERED OTHER THAN IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES SET OUT IN REGULATION 3.5 (b) ABOVE. THE CLUB LAYS ITSELF OPEN TO SANCTION UNDER THESE REGULATIONS IN THE EVENT THE REFEREE REPORTS NON COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATION THIS REGULATION 3.5 OR ABUSE OF THE REFEREE OR MATCH OFFICIALS WHICH IS FOUND TO HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIATED.*

*PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION ON PLAYERS OR REPLACEMENTS TAKING PART IN A CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH SHALL BE A SERIOUS OFFENCE.*

## **8. Playing Kit**

- 8.1 No later than 31 August 2018 each Club shall give to the Tournament Organiser written details of its first and second choice of colours in relation to Match jerseys, shorts and socks. Such details shall be provided in electronic format which shall clearly show the artwork of the jerseys, shorts and socks. For avoidance of doubt, the first choice must be predominantly one colour with the second a total contrast.
- 8.2 The Tournament Organiser shall determine which choice of colours a Club wears in any Match.

8.3 In Matches Players' jerseys may carry advertising subject to any requirement from time to time specified by the Tournament Organisers and/or World Rugby.

8.4 In Matches, jerseys shall be numbered in accordance with World Rugby Regulations.

## **9. Match Officials**

9.1 The Match Officials shall be appointed by the RFU.

9.2 A television match official may be appointed by the RFU for any Match and in which case, the World Rugby TMO Protocol shall apply.

9.3 The Match Officials shall be required to wear such kit as may from time to time be determined by the Tournament Organiser.

## **10. Grounds and the Home Club**

10.1 Each Club shall register with the Tournament Organiser the name and address of its principal home ground together with the Club's contracted standby ground, if it has one and any temporary ground.

10.2 Pursuant to Regulation 5.8 each Club shall take all reasonable steps to maintain its pitch to an adequate standard. The Tournament Organiser 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.

10.3 The Home Club is responsible for correctly and clearly marking its pitch to the satisfaction of the Tournament Organiser and will use its best endeavours to remove any football markings which may also be visible on the pitch.

10.4 Each Club must make proper provision to ensure that all spectators are kept at a reasonable distance from the field of play.

10.5 Each Club must make provision for two technical areas as outlined in Appendix 4 and shall ensure that all coaching and playing personnel comply with the requirements contained therein. In addition, each Club must ensure that both team replacements and coaching staff are not permitted pitch side except within the structures specifically provided for them or within the boundaries of the technical area or during 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.

10.6 The Home Club shall also provide an additional 10 seats in a reasonable location with close proximity to the dressing rooms for the support staff and travelling reserves of the Visiting Team. Each of these seats must have been identified and approved by the Tournament Organiser prior to the start of the Competition. The Tournament Organiser shall determine the location of these seats if the proposed location is not deemed by the Tournament Organiser to be in a reasonable location.

10.7 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 (i.e. within the two 10 metre lines) in a reasonably elevated position with close proximity to the dressing rooms, for the coaching staff and match analysis staff of the Visiting Club. The Visiting Club seating must be positioned in order to protect both coaches, analysts and their equipment from rain and adverse weather conditions. Each of these seats must have been identified and approved by the Tournament Organiser prior to the start of the Competition and must have a fixed working area and have 240v power available for use by Club analysts. The Tournament Organiser shall determine the location of these seats if the proposed location is not deemed by the

Tournament Organiser to be in a reasonable location and/or sufficiently protected from rain and adverse weather conditions.

- 10.8 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.
- 10.9 Any Player ordered off must leave the playing enclosure and must retire to the changing rooms or stands. For the avoidance of doubt, a Player may not remain in the technical area or pitch side once he has been ordered off by the Referee.
- 10.10 The Home Club is responsible for making available to the Referee, Reserve Referee and the Assistant Referees separate suitable changing room facilities; and
- 10.11 The Home Club is responsible for providing an official from the Home Club to act as the Fifth Official who shall be responsible, under the authority of the Referee, for the touchline operation of replacements, including the “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 Fourth Official may be called upon to act as one of the Assistant Referees at the request of the Referee.
- 10.12 The Home Club is responsible for making available to the Visiting Club the pitch for their pre-match warm up unless adverse weather conditions prevent both teams from warming up on the pitch. In the event that both teams are unable to warm up on the pitch a suitable area must be provided to the Visiting Club.

## **11. Medical Matters**

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

- 11.1 At all Championship Matches two appropriately qualified medical practitioners as defined in the applicable minimum standards criteria document (as provided to the Clubs) must be present pitch side to attend to Players, the Referee and the Assistant Referees during the Match, at half-time and immediately after the Match, and in order to implement the World Rugby Head Injury Assessment Protocol. The World Rugby Head Injury Assessment Protocol and the World Rugby Core Mandatory Concussion Player Welfare Standards must be complied with fully. Both Clubs are jointly responsible for ensuring compliance with this Regulation.
- 11.2 To be considered appropriately qualified as a medical practitioner he/she must be able to demonstrate that he/she: is fully registered with the General Medical Council (GMC); possesses the appropriate professional indemnity insurance; has successfully completed the level 3 Pre Hospital Immediate Care in Sport Course (PHICIS) course (or equivalent), which must be current and valid ; and has completed World Rugby's education module on Concussion Management for Elite Level Match Day Medical Staff;
- 11.3 If the Clubs are unable to provide two appropriately qualified medical practitioners for a Match in accordance with Regulation 8.1(a) above, the Recognise and Remove Protocol (as provided to the Clubs) must operate for that Match. In the event of Clubs failing to comply with the provisions of Regulation 8.1(a) above, the matter will be referred to the RFU to investigate further and to determine in their discretion any sanction for non-compliance, which may include sanctioning one or both Clubs as they consider appropriate.
- 11.4 It is the responsibility of the Home Club to ensure that all other medical facilities and equipment as are defined in the applicable minimum standards criteria document (as provided to the Clubs) are available for the use of such qualified medical practitioner.

- 11.5 It is the responsibility of each of the Clubs in a Match to ensure that an appropriately qualified physiotherapist, BASRAT approved sports rehabilitator or graduate sports therapist, is 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, BASRAT approved sports rehabilitator or graduate sports therapist, he/she must demonstrate that he/she: is registered with the appropriate professional body; possesses the appropriate professional indemnity insurance; has successfully completed the level 3 Pre Hospital Immediate Care in Sport Course (PHICIS) course (or equivalent), which must be current and valid; and has completed World Rugby's education module on Concussion Management for Elite Level Match Day Medical Staff.

### **Head Injuries**

- 11.6 Any Player who has suffered concussion or is suspected of having concussion in any match or training session must be managed according to World Rugby Medical Regulation 10 and the RFU's Championship Concussion Management Programme as defined in the Pre Hospital Immediate Care in Sport Course, including post-concussion and baseline Scat 5 testing (or such other recognised psychometric test that the RFU's Concussion Management Programme shall from time to time specify).
- 11.7 The Professional Game Head Injury Assessment Review shall apply to Clubs and shall be provided to the Clubs in advance of the Season, except in the case of a Player who when participating in a match has not reached 19 years of age (in which case the Head Injury Assessment Review shall not apply).

## **12. Finance, Broadcasting, Sponsorship, Ticketing & Media**

- 12.1 In addition to clauses 12.9 to 12.38, each Club shall adhere to the commercial and/or media requirements as notified from time to time in writing by the RFU. Such additional commercial and/or media requirements include but are not limited to match branding, use of big screens, naming rights, media rights and use of the competition logo.

### Finance

- 12.2 Each Club shall be responsible for its own travelling and accommodation expenses throughout the Competition.
- 12.3 The Home Club in the pool stages, quarter-finals, semi-finals and Final (unless player at a neutral venue in which case Regulation 12.7 applies) bears all the costs of organising its Home game(s).
- 12.4 The Home Club in the pool stages shall receive 100% of all gate receipts, vending receipts, food, beverage and hospitality receipts, programme and advertising receipts and any other income (other than that arising under any central commercial and/or sponsorship and/or broadcasting agreement). In the knock-out stage, the Tournament Organiser will advise participating teams of the arrangements for distribution of gate receipts and other revenue prior to the commencement of the competition.
- 12.5 Pursuant to Regulation 12.6 below, Clubs shall be entitled to receive the following meritocracy payments in the 2018/19 Championship Cup competition:
- £10,000 plus VAT for reaching the quarter-finals
  - £10,000 plus VAT for reaching the semi-finals;
  - £10,000 plus VAT for reaching the Final;
  - £10,000 plus VAT for winning the Final

- 12.6 Meritocracy payments (referred to in 12.5 above) will be paid by the Tournament Organiser within 14 days to the relevant Club following receipt of invoice received no earlier than the Tuesday following the relevant Match.
- 12.7 In addition to the meritocracy payments set out in 12.5 above and if played at a neutral venue, the two finalists shall be advised by the Tournament Organiser of the arrangements for distribution of gate receipts and other revenue prior to the Final.
- 12.8 The RFU may deduct or withhold any meritocracy payment owed due to any outstanding debt or fines due to the RFU from that relevant club.

#### Broadcasting

- 12.9 The RFU shall have the exclusive rights to enter into, or authorise the entry into, of contracts for the grant of Broadcasting rights in respect of the Matches and to determine which Matches should be broadcast.
- 12.10 Clubs undertake to provide such rights, facilities and other services and to do such acts and things as may be necessary to enable the RFU to fulfil or enable fulfilment of any contract referred to in paragraph (a) of this Regulation, including (but without limitation) providing access to enable television companies to film Matches at the grounds of relevant Clubs.
- 12.11 Subject to Regulation 12.9 above, no Matches shall be broadcast in any form or recorded without the prior written approval of the RFU.
- 12.12 For the avoidance of doubt and except as otherwise agreed in writing by the RFU, Clubs shall have no rights or interests whatsoever in any Broadcasting rights in respect of the Matches or any material produced in connection therewith or as a consequence thereof.
- 12.13 Except as expressly permitted by these Regulations, each Club shall not and will not permit any third party to film, record and/or transmit audio or audio-visual signals of any Match and/or any other content relating to the Championship Cup.
- 12.14 Except as permitted by Regulations 12.16 and 12.23, each Club shall not distribute, transmit or broadcast, or authorise any third party to distribute, transmit or broadcast, any Footage of a Match.
- 12.15 Except with the prior consent of the RFU (both in principle and to the final product), no Club shall (or authorise any third party to) create, produce, manufacture, license or distribute any product featuring any Footage of a Match.
- 12.16 Each Club shall feature on any Club Website only such Footage as provided by the RFU or its authorised provider for online content. Such Footage may be used in a Club's own production provided that:
- i. such production is no more than 5 minutes in duration (in aggregate);
  - ii. such production featuring Footage relating to a particular Match does not appear on any Club Website before 0900hrs on the Tuesday (if the relevant Match took place on the previous Friday) or 0900hrs on the Wednesday (if the relevant Match took place on a Saturday or Sunday);
  - iii. it is not used for standalone highlights; and
  - iv. no fee is payable (directly or indirectly) in order to access the production.

- 12.17 Save as set out in Regulations 12.16 and 12.23, Footage shall not be distributed by the Club in any form whatsoever, including to any company, organisation or individual, or via any website, without the express written permission of the RFU (acting in its absolute discretion).
- 12.18 Each Club shall provide all access and support as the Broadcast Partner(s) may reasonably require in order for the Broadcast Partner(s) to exercise the Broadcast Rights.
- 12.19 The RFU shall notify the Clubs of the schedule of Matches selected to be broadcast live by the Broadcast Partner(s) on such notification dates as the Tournament Organiser shall notify to Clubs prior to the commencement of the Championship Cup competition.
- 12.20 The RFU shall use its reasonable endeavours to notify each Club of a Broadcast Partner's intention to exercise any of the Broadcast Rights in respect of a Match that is to be broadcast live and in which that Club is participating no less than one calendar month before the day of the Match.
- 12.21 Where a Match is to be broadcast live by a Broadcast Partner, the RFU shall be entitled to require that the relevant Match takes place at a time and date specified by the RFU and notified to the participating Clubs in advance.
- 12.22 Six weeks prior to the commencement of the Championship Cup competition, parking and accreditation requirements of the Broadcast Partner(s) shall be agreed between the RFU, the Club and the Broadcaster Partner(s) (acting in good faith) by email. Each Club will provide free of charge that number of car parking and accreditation passes in advance of and in respect of each Match intended to be broadcast by a Broadcast Partner.
- 12.23 With the prior written approval of the RFU and the relevant Broadcast Partner (if the Tournament Organiser notifies the Club that such approval is required under any Broadcasting Agreement), a Club may arrange for a Match in which it is involved to be relayed (only using content provided by a Broadcast Partner) by closed circuit television to other locations, provided that no such approval is required where it is relayed via giant screens located within the Home Club's ground.

#### Sponsorship

- 12.24 Each Sponsorship Agreement shall be binding upon each Club, insofar as it affects or relates to the Club, provided that the terms of the Sponsorship Agreement have been notified to the Club and for so long as such Club participates in the Championship Cup. No Club shall enter into a new commercial arrangement which causes the RFU to be in breach of any agreement with a Commercial Partner or otherwise conflicts with the Commercial Rights.
- 12.25 Each Club grants the Tournament Organiser the right (which the RFU may sub-license) to use any logos or other intellectual property rights of such Club in connection with the exploitation of any or all of the Commercial Rights, including:
- i. in advertising and promotional material relating to the Competition and/or a Match;
  - ii. to promote the association of any Commercial Partner with the Competition and/or a Match;
  - iii. on and in connection with the Championship Cup's and the Tournament Organiser's website(s); and
  - iv. for such other purpose as the Club may agree from time to time.
- 12.26 The RFU is the absolute owner of the Commercial Rights and the RFU may (in its absolute discretion) exploit all or some of the Commercial Rights, authorise a third party to exploit all or some of the Commercial Rights, or elect to exploit none or some of the Commercial Rights.

No Club shall have any rights or interests whatsoever in or in respect of the Commercial Rights, except that:

- i. each Club shall have the non-exclusive right to enter into contracts in respect of the Commercial Rights in respect of Matches at which it is the Home Club provided such contracts are not in conflict with any of the Sponsorship Agreements or Regulations; and
  - ii. subject to Regulation 12.26(i), each Club shall have the right, in respect of Matches at which it is the Home Club, to enter into (or authorise or permit the entry into of) an agreement with a third party granting that third party the right to associate itself with such Match(es), provided always that such right shall be strictly limited to the third party's name or branding being used in connection with the Match in the following manner: "[Relevant Match] in association with [relevant third party]" or such other similar manner as may be approved in writing by RFU. Such agreement must not be with a competitor of a Commercial Partner.
  - iii. For the avoidance of doubt, no Club shall enter into or authorise or permit the entry into of any other agreement in respect of naming rights or other similar rights in relation to a Match.
- 12.27 At all reasonable times and in any event not less than 24 hours prior to the kick-off of any Match, the Home Club shall procure access to the facilities at the Venue for the personnel and representatives of the RFU and any Commercial Partner to enable the RFU and/or the Commercial Partner (as the case may be) to exploit the Commercial Rights, as set out in these Commercial Regulations.

#### Ticketing

- 12.28 In respect of each of its home Matches, a Club shall:-
- 12.28.1 provide on request to the RFU for use by the RFU:
    - 50 best category tickets, free of charge;
    - 4 car park passes, free of charge;
    - A table for 10 people at a match at each Club;
    - The right to purchase additional tickets
  - 12.28.2 provide at least ten (10) best category tickets to the Away Club, free of charge for the use of the Away Club's directors and committee members; such tickets shall include the provision of hosted hospitality free of charge;
  - 12.28.3 provide at least fifty (50) best category tickets to the Away Club, free of charge for the use of the Away Club's Players, Officials and/or other representatives, and the Away Club shall notify the Home Club as soon as reasonably practicable if the same are not required;
  - 12.28.4 make at least 500 tickets in blocks of no fewer than ten (10) tickets together, available for purchase by the Away Club, on a sale or return basis, with the deadline for returns being fourteen (14) days before the Match;
  - 12.28.5 provide on request to any Sponsor the number of tickets required by any Sponsorship Agreement; and
    - No Home Club shall charge higher prices to supporters of the Away Club for admission comparable with that used by supporters of the Home Club (not being members of the Home Club) who arrive at its ground on the day of a Match seeking a ticket for admission.



- Payment for tickets sold in respect of a Match by the Away Club and for any tickets supplied to the Away Club but not returned to the Home Club shall be made by the Away Club to the Home Club no later than fourteen (14) days before the Match.

#### Media

- 12.29 For the mutual benefit of all of the Clubs, each Club including its Players, Coaches, employees and representatives, agree to promote the Competition's interests at all times and to uphold the sport's core values of teamwork, discipline, respect, sportsmanship and enjoyment.
- 12.30 Each Club shall appoint a designated Media Manager who shall be responsible for ensuring the Club's compliance with the media requirements set out in these Regulations and shall attend each of the Club's matches in the Competition.
- 12.31 At least one hour prior to kick-off the Home Club shall provide accurate teams sheets for each Club participating in the relevant Match to the media and broadcasters. Such team sheet shall include the Competition logo.
- 12.32 For Broadcast Matches only, the Home Club shall provide an area close to the Playing Area, or in another area agreed before the Match with the Tournament Organiser, free of undue disturbance and equipped with all relevant facilities, for "flash" interviews immediately following the Match.
- 12.33 For Broadcast Matches only, each Club shall procure the attendance of the head coach and Player for "flash" interviews.
- 12.34 The Home Club must provide adequate working facilities for representatives of the media at the Home Club's ground, including a dedicated SSID/wireless internet connection for use in the media room, photographers' room and on press benches situated at the Club's home ground.
- 12.35 Each Home Club must make available, free of charge, not less than 30 (or such lower number as RFU may agree) designated parking spaces at or in the immediate proximity of the Home Club's ground on the day of a Match for representatives of the media to park their vehicles.
- 12.36 Each Home Club shall equip their media room with a television showing BT Sport channels.

### **13. Breaches of Regulations and Discipline**

- 13.1 The RFU has the power to investigate allegations of foul play or misconduct on or off the field of play and any case shall be dealt with in accordance with these Regulations and the RFU's Rules and Regulations.
- 13.2 The RFU has the power to investigate any suspected breach of these Regulations and/or any breach of the RFU's Rules or other Regulations and/or any breach of World Rugby's Regulations and has the power to impose any sanction as deemed appropriate by a Panel in accordance with RFU Regulation 19 and Appendix 3 of these Regulations. For these purposes, the RFU may require the attendance of Officials, Players and other persons and the production of any books, letters and other documents or records. Where a charge is brought, an independent Panel will be appointed by the RFU Disciplinary Hearings Manager. A Notice of Hearing shall be sent to the Person, Player or Club charged.
- 13.3 Any Panel convened pursuant to Regulation 13 shall have jurisdiction to impose such penalty as it thinks fit including, but not limited to, financial sanctions, points deduction and suspension. For the avoidance of doubt, this power shall include a power to impose any sanction which

could be imposed for breach of any RFU Regulations which is equivalent to a breach of these regulations or for a breach of any other RFU Regulations.

#### **14. Appeals**

14.1 In every case, an appeal must be served in writing upon the RFU Head of Discipline within 48 hours of receipt of the written decision and the procedure for appeals will be in accordance with RFU Disciplinary Regulation 19.14. The decision of the Appeal Panel shall be final and binding on the RFU, Clubs, Players and Officials.

14.2 The parties to an appeal shall be:

14.2.1 the appellant Club, Official or Player; and

14.2.2 in the case of an appeal against the imposition of a fixed penalty or where a decision of the RFU, or the Tournament Organiser is under appeal, the RFU or the Tournament Organiser.

#### **15. Miscellaneous**

##### Compliance

15.1 In consideration of the monies it is entitled to receive through its participation in the Championship Cup each Club by commencing its first match in and/or entering the Championship Cup agrees it has entered into a legally binding commitment and legally binding obligations with the Tournament Organiser and the RFU and as separate, obligations with each other Club in the Championship Cup and with any broadcaster or sponsor of the Championship Cup.

##### Governing Law & Jurisdiction

15.2 These Regulations and any disputes or differences arising in relation to them shall be governed in all respects by English law.

15.3 Any dispute arising out of or in connection with these Regulations (including any dispute or question about the existence or validity of these Regulations) shall be resolved in accordance with these Regulations and decisions made pursuant to these Regulations shall be final and binding on all Clubs, players and other parties under the jurisdiction of these Regulations.

##### Good Faith

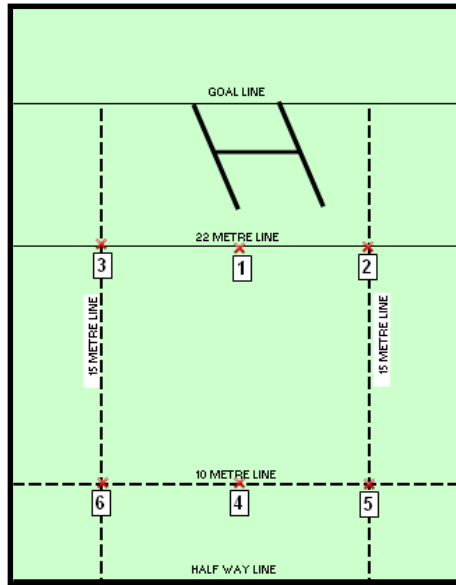
15.4 No Club, either by itself, its servants or agents, shall by any means whatsoever unfairly criticise, disparage, belittle or discredit any other Club, the Matches, or the RFU or any of their respective Directors, officers, employees or agents.

## **Appendix One**

### **Place Kick Competition**

If at the end of a knock-out Match, after extra-time has been played, the scores remain equal and the number of tries scored in the Match is 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 the Match Officials will remain on the playing area. The referee will call the captains of the two teams at the end of the match to the centre of the pitch and will conduct two coin tosses. The first toss of the coin will determine which team selects the end of the playing area at which all place kicks will be taken; the second toss of the coin will determine which team kicks first or second.
2. The Match Officials and the six nominated players (3 from each side) will assemble on the halfway line. All other players and team management must remain in the technical areas. No one other than the Match Officials and the participating players are allowed in the playing area or behind the posts for the duration of the kicking competition.
3. Team A and Team B will each nominate 3 kickers from the players on the pitch at the end of extra time to participate in the place kick competition.
4. Each kicker will be allocated a number i.e. Kicker 1, Kicker 2 or Kicker 3. This designation cannot change.
5. If during the place kick competition any of the 3 kickers becomes injured he will be replaced by a player who was on the pitch at the end of extra time.
6. The first phase of the competition will consist of 6 kicks from 6 positions as outlined in the diagram below.
7. Each kicker will take 2 kicks in the following order:-
  - Kicker 1 from team A and Kicker 1 from team B will each take a kick from position 1.
  - Kicker 2 from team A and Kicker 2 from team B will each take a kick from position 2.
  - Kicker 3 from team A and Kicker 3 from team B will each take a kick from position 3.
  - Kicker 1 from team A and Kicker 1 from team B will each take a kick from position 4.
  - Kicker 2 from team A and Kicker 2 from team B will each take a kick from position 5.
  - Kicker 3 from team A and Kicker 3 from team B will each take a kick from position 6.
8. If the teams are level at the end of the 6 kick competition there will be a 'sudden death competition'. All kicks will take place from position 4 and kicks will be taken in the following order:-
  - First to kick will be Kicker 1 from each team
  - Second to kick will be Kicker 2 from each team
  - Third to kick will be Kicker 3 from each team
  - Kicks will continue in this order until a point is reached where each team has taken the same number of sudden death kicks but one team has scored one more than the other team. When this point is reached the team that has scored more successful kicks will be declared the winner.
9. For the avoidance of doubt the referee is the sole judge of whether a kick has been successful. In reaching this decision the Match Referee may rely on assistance from his assistant referees and/or Television match official



## Appendix Two

### Substitution Protocol

1. Before the Match begins, each participating Club must advise the 4th match official of its nominee to fill in and sign the substitution cards. The nominee should be the team coach, who must be in the technical zone during the Match.
2. When a Club decides to replace a Player on the Playing Area, the Club's nominee fills in the appropriate details on the substitution card and signs it. The numbers of the Player leaving the Playing Area and the Player replacing him must be written in the appropriate box on the substitution card.
3. When a Player leaves the field of play for a bleeding/open wound, the blood box will be ticked and the numbers of the leaving Player and the replacement Player will be entered in the appropriate box. The process is repeated when the first Player returns to the field of play.
4. The sin bin box is ticked when a Front Row Player has been sin-binned and another Front Row Player has to enter the Playing Area in order to ensure non-contested scrums do not occur. The numbers of the Player leaving the Playing Area to accommodate the replacement front row Player and the replacement Front Row Player must be written in the appropriate box on the substitution card.

The card does not represent a valid request until it is signed.

5. The card is then handed to the 4th official, who will check the details and then proceed with the substitution.
6. The 4th official will add the details to his substitution form.
7. Once the card has been passed to the 4th official, a substitution is only effective when the referee signals for the Player to be replaced. A Club may amend details on the card given to the 4th official until the replacement takes place. Any amendments to the card must be authorised by signature by the Club's nominated person.
8. During a Match, each Club will receive a different colour substitution card which will be decided by the 4th official.

## **Appendix Three**

### **Disciplinary Regulations**

#### 1. Procedure

The disciplinary regulations, procedures and sanctions applicable to the Competition are those set out in RFU Rules and Regulation 19, save insofar as they are amended by these Disciplinary Regulations.

#### 2. Hearings

Players ordered-off the field of play or cited (see Annex to Appendix Three) in a Competition match will be required to attend a hearing before a Disciplinary Panel organised by the RFU Disciplinary Hearings Manager, to be heard if practicable in Bristol (unless some other venue is agreed) where possible on the Tuesday following the match.

A Player ordered-off or cited by a Citing Commissioner is provisionally suspended and may not take part or be selected for any further match until his case has been dealt with by a Disciplinary Panel.

#### 3. Match Officials – Report Writing

Match Officials are required to forward a copy of their ordering-off report and/or their temporary suspension (yellow card) report to the RFU Head of Discipline within 24 hours of the conclusion of the match.

#### 4. Citing

The citing procedures applicable to the Competition are set out in the Annex to these Disciplinary Regulations.

#### 5. Totting-up, two on-field yellow cards & CCWs

- Totting-Up

A totting-up process will be established for the Competition and relate only to yellow cards awarded for illegal and/or foul play within this Competition. A Player who receives three yellow cards for illegal and/or foul play (including CCWs) in the Competition will be required to appear before a Disciplinary Panel.

An appeal against a yellow card for illegal and/or foul play is only valid where the appellant alleges that there was mistaken identity or that no act of illegal and/or foul play took place. The appeal must be lodged within 7 days of the date of the match with the RFU Head of Discipline and the appeal will be dealt with at the hearing that is subsequently arranged to deal with the totting up. Any appeal that is lodged after the 7 day period will not be valid and shall not be considered by the Disciplinary Panel.

- Two Yellow Cards in a match

A player who receives two yellow cards (for technical and/or illegal/foul play) in a match and is ordered-off the field of play will be required to appear before a Disciplinary Panel.

If one or both of the yellow cards was awarded for illegal and/or foul play, then the Player may challenge one or both of the illegal and/or foul play yellow cards at the hearing. If the Disciplinary Panel allows an appeal against one or both of the illegal and/or foul play yellow cards (i.e. mistaken

identity or no act of foul play took place) the red card shall be expunged from the player's record. There is no right of appeal against the award of a yellow card for a technical offence.

- Citing Commissioner Warnings (CCW)

A CCW issued by a Citing Commissioner is to be treated as if it were an on-field yellow card for illegal and/or foul play for the purposes of these Disciplinary Regulations.

If a Player has received two CCWs or a combination of a CCW and a yellow card (for technical and/or illegal/foul play) during a match he shall be treated for disciplinary purposes as if he had been ordered-off during the match.

### **Annex to Appendix Three**

#### Citing Procedures

1. The following citing procedures apply only to incidents of illegal and/or foul play occurring during Competition Matches.
2. The RFU Head of Discipline shall appoint suitably qualified Citing Commissioners to undertake citing duties in the Competition.
3. The Tournament Director
  - (a) make arrangements for a video recording of each Competition Match to be taken, to a common standard, and independently from any video which may be commissioned by the participating Clubs, ("independent video"); and
  - (b) make arrangements whereby all match footage is uploaded onto the RFU's Elite Hub within sufficient time to enable the Citing Commissioner to review the footage and to refer any citings within the time period set out below.
4. A Club may, within 8 hours of the conclusion of a Competition Match, refer to the Citing Commissioner any incidents that the Club wishes the Citing Commissioner to review.
5. A Citing Commissioner alone shall have the power and responsibility to cite a player for an act of illegal and/or foul play, whether or not it has been detected by the Match Officials. Any citing must be made in writing by the Citing Commissioner to the RFU Head of Discipline within 48 hours of the conclusion of the Match. This time period may be extended if the RFU Head of Discipline determines that it is in the interests of the Game to do so.
6. The RFU Head of Discipline shall forward to the cited player, via his Club, a charge setting out the alleged act of illegal and/or foul play, a copy of the citing report and any footage of the incident. Thereafter, the RFU Disciplinary Hearings Manager shall make arrangements for the hearing of the case.
7. The cited Player may request that the Citing Commissioner be available to give evidence about the incident.
8. The RFU Head of Discipline may appoint a person to present the citing if he considers it necessary to do so.
9. A Citing Commissioner may issue a Citing Commissioner Warning (CCW) for acts of illegal and/or foul play that, in the Citing Commissioner's opinion, narrowly fail to meet the red card threshold but should be brought to the player's attention. They are to be treated as an on-field yellow card for foul play for disciplinary purposes.

10. The following administrative fees will be payable by the Club to the RFU in accordance with these Disciplinary Regulations:

Disciplinary Hearings - £250 (£100 if dealt with on the papers)

Appeals - £250 (£100 if dealt with on the papers)

Foul Play Yellow Cards/ Citing Commissioner Warning - £60



## **Appendix Four**

### **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 people (certified doctors or physiotherapists only) and two water carriers (who may not be coaching personnel) per team are permitted to operate from the technical areas. One of these medically trained people 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.
  - 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.
  - 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 a. 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.
  - 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.
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.
  - b. The two water carriers are not permitted in the playing area during penalty kicks at goal.

- c. The water carriers must remain in the technical area at all times unless they enter the playing area to provide water or when one enters to provide a kicking tee to a kicker at a penalty kick.
  - 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 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.

