



RFU COMMUNITY GAME UPDATE

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9th March - Supplement

For Information

Adult Competition Review – Update

The recommendations of the Adult Competition Review Group were adopted by the RFU Council in June 2014 and an Implementation Group was established to make the changes. The Review established five key principles, one of which is to provide a varied diet of rugby, in other words a mix of league and meaningful cup competition. The Review recommended that additional financial support should be provided to help clubs participate in cup rugby. This Update focuses on the arrangements for cup competitions and should be read in conjunction with the previous two updates issued in November and January.

The RFU Council's decision to agree and adopt the recommendation for cups included the provision of financial support for participation. This is set out in detail below and will come into effect in **season 2016/17**. The RFU's Governance Standing Committee is developing regulations governing both league and cup competitions to include consideration of implications for those teams not fulfilling fixtures.

All the cup competitions will have RFU marketing support with the intention that they become not just an integral and enjoyable part of the season, but also aspirational competitions for all clubs, with the prospect of playing at Twickenham. The name used for each cup competition is a working title only at this stage, with further announcements to be made. The structure of the season is also important to help clubs plan, to ensure continuity of home fixtures for revenue generation and to have no gaps in the season, other than those weekends set aside for rest and recovery or reserved for weather postponements. The illustrative structured season below shows how that will work.

Illustrative Structured Season

Below and attached is an illustrative Structured Season. Please note: this should not be taken as the final dates for 2016/17. These will be set before that season. The detail will vary season

to season but the principle of the structure will remain. Where pools of 3 operate in a cup, each team will have 1 rest weekend within the pool. This ensures the required rests identified in the Adult Competition Review.

For Levels 7 and below, the number of weekends required for cup competitions will depend upon the number of entries and the format adopted by the Divisional Organising Committee (pool or knockout). Similarly the number of weeks required for the league will depend on the size of the league (maximum of 12).

The consolidated summary of league and cup competitions for 2016/17 together with transition arrangements will be published as previously announced in good time for the 2015/16 season.

DRAFT STRUCTURED SEASON - 2016-17

Year	Saturday	Internationals	Eqg Counties	NATIONAL 1 & 2	DIVISIONAL 1	DIVISIONAL 2	DIVISIONAL 3 & Below	County Champ.	U20s	Saturday	Year
				15 Team League (Level 3 & 4)	8 x 12 Team Leagues. Caps played in Pools of 3 (3 Rounds) (Level 5)	16 x 12 Team Leagues. Caps played in Pools of 3 (3 Rounds) (Level 6)	Max 12 Team Leagues. Caps played as determined by DDCs. (Levels 7 & Below)				
2016	August 27									August 27	2016
2016	September 3			Lqe 1	Lqe 1	Lqe 1	Lqe			September 3	2016
2016	September 10			Lqe 2	Lqe 2	Lqe 2	Lqe			September 10	2016
2016	September 17			Lqe 3	Lqe 3	Lqe 3	Lqe			September 17	2016
2016	September 24			Lqe 4	Lqe 4	Lqe 4	Lqe			September 24	2016
2016	October 1			Lqe 5	Cap1	Cap1	Cap			October 1	2016
2016	October 8			Lqe 6	Lqe 5	Lqe 5	Lqe			October 8	2016
2016	October 15			Lqe 7	Lqe 6	Lqe 6	Lqe			October 15	2016
2016	October 22			Lqe 8	Cap2	Cap2	Cap		Shld 1	October 22	2016
2016	October 29			Lqe 9	Lqe 7	Lqe 7	Lqe			October 29	2016
2016	November 5	AI		Lqe 10	Lqe 8	Lqe 8	Lqe			November 5	2016
2016	November 12	AI				Cap3	Cap			November 12	2016
2016	November 19	AI		Lqe 11	Lqe 9	Lqe 9	Lqe			November 19	2016
2016	November 26	AI		Lqe 12	Lqe 10	Lqe 10	Lqe			November 26	2016
2016	December 3			Lqe 13	Cap3	Cap Last 64	Cap/Reserve		Shld 2	December 3	2016
2016	December 10			Lqe 14	Lqe 11	Lqe 11	Lqe			December 10	2016
2016	December 17			Lqe 15	Lqe 12	Lqe 12	Lqe			December 17	2016
2016	December 24									December 24	2016
2016	December 31			Lqe 16						December 31	2016
2017	January 7			Lqe 17	Lqe 13	Lqe 13	Lqe			January 7	2017
2017	January 14			Lqe 18	Lqe 14	Lqe 14	Lqe			January 14	2017
2017	January 21			Lqe 19	Cap Last 32	Cap Last 32/Reserve	Cap/Reserve		Shld 3/Cap 1	January 21	2017
2017	January 28			Lqe 20	Lqe 15	Lqe 15	Lqe			January 28	2017
2017	February 4	Eqg v Fia (Sat 4.50)		Lqe 21						February 4	2017
2017	February 11	Wal v Eqg (Sat 4.50)		Lqe 22	Lqe 16	Lqe 16	Lqe		Shld GF/Cap 2	February 11	2017
2017	February 18			Lqe 23	Lqe 17	Lqe 17	Lqe			February 18	2017
2017	February 25	Eqg v Itz (Sun 3)	E Cos	Reserve	Cap Last 16/Reserve	Cap Last 16/Reserve	Cap/Reserve		Shld SF/Cap 3	February 25	2017
2017	March 4			Lqe 24	Lqe 18	Lqe 18	Lqe			March 4	2017
2017	March 11	Eqg v Sco (Sat 4)		Lqe 25	Lqe 19	Lqe 19	Lqe			March 11	2017
2017	March 18	Itz v Eqg (Sat 5)	E Cos	Reserve	Cap GF/Reserve	Cap GF/Reserve	Cap GF/Reserve		Shld F/Cap GF	March 18	2017
2017	March 25			Lqe 26	Lqe 20	Lqe 20	Lqe			March 25	2017
2017	April 1			Lqe 27	Lqe 21	Lqe 21	Lqe			April 1	2017
2017	April 8			Lqe 28	Cap SF/Reserve	Cap SF/Reserve	Cap SF/Reserve		Cap SF	April 8	2017
2017	April 15			Lqe 29	Lqe 22	Lqe 22	Lqe			April 15	2017
2017	April 22			Lqe 30		Lqe 22	Lqe PO			April 22	2017
2017	April 29				Cap F	Cap F	Cap F		Pool (Shld)	April 29	2017
2017	May 6								Pool	May 6	2017
2017	May 13								Pool	May 13	2017
2017	May 20								Pool	May 20	2017
2017	May 27								F	May 27	2017

KEY
 Ring-fenced weekend. No matches to be arranged unless both teams and the relevant competition committee agree.

LEVEL 5

It is intended that entry to the Level 5 Cup will be a condition of entry to the RFU league at Level 5 (Governance Standing Committee will look at this as they develop regulations). The Cup will consist of 32 pools of 3, with clubs placed in a pool with clubs outside of their league with the intention of facilitating one home and one away fixture for all clubs at the pool stage.

All clubs will progress to a knockout stage guaranteeing them one additional fixture – the pool winners progressing to the CUP, second place to the SHIELD and third place to the BOWL. This means that 50% of clubs will have another home fixture at this stage which will equal the number of home fixtures currently in a 14 club league. For those drawn away in the knockout phase the aspiration will be to ensure a home fixture in the following season hence giving all clubs at least three home cup fixtures over two seasons.

Pools will be drawn and published at the same time as the league fixtures are determined (**15th June**), enabling clubs to sell sponsorship and promote cup fixtures as part of their match programme for the season. Dates for knockout stages will be built into the published season structure.

Winners in the first round of each knockout competition progress to the final 16, winners of those games on to quarter finals, winners of those on to semi-finals and ultimately resulting in three finals. The CUP final will be played at Twickenham with the SHIELD and the BOWL

played at prestige venues on the same day/weekend.

Travel costs will be paid in bandings based on round trips:

50-100 miles - £200

100-250 miles - £400

250 plus miles - £600

Accommodation funding based on the existing RFU schedule will be available for journeys in excess of 450 miles return in the quarter finals, semi-finals and final.

Participation funding will be paid to each participating club based on completion of the two pool matches and the knockout game. Any club that fails to fulfil a match will not receive any participation funding. Further participation funding will be paid based on progression:

	CUP	SHIELD	BOWL
Fulfilling both pool matches and first knockout match	£1500	£1500	£1500
Knocked out in last 16 match	£800	£700	£600
Knocked out in quarter final	£1000	£900	£800
Knocked out in semi final	£1500	£1250	£1000
Reaching final	£2500	£2000	£1500

As an illustration, a club that fulfils all their matches and is knocked out in the last 16 of the Cup receives participation funding totalling £2,300 (£1,500 + £800) in addition to travel payments. A club reaching the Cup final will receive a total of £4,000 in addition to travel.

LEVEL 6

Entry to the Level 6 Cup will be voluntary. Assuming 100% entries, the Cup will consist of 64 pools of 3, with clubs placed in a pool with clubs outside of their league with the intention of facilitating one home and one away fixture for all clubs at the pool stage.

All clubs will progress to a knockout stage guaranteeing them one additional fixture – the pool winners progressing to the CUP, second place to the SHIELD and third place to the BOWL. This means that 50% of clubs will have another home cup fixture at this stage which will equal the number of home fixtures currently in a 14 club league. For those drawn away in the knockout phase every effort will be made to ensure a home fixture in the following season hence giving all clubs at least three home cup fixtures over two seasons.

Pools will be drawn and published at the same time as the league fixtures are determined (**15th June**), enabling clubs to sell sponsorship and promote cup fixtures as part of their match programme for the season. Dates for knockout stages will be built into the published season structure.

Winners in the first round of each knockout competition progress to the final 32, winners of those games on to the final 16, winners of those games on to quarter finals, winners of those on to semi-finals and ultimately resulting in three finals. The CUP final will be played at Twickenham with the SHIELD and the BOWL played at prestige venues on the same day/weekend.

Travel costs will be paid in bandings based on round trips:

50-100 miles - £200

100-250 miles - £400

250 plus miles - £600

Accommodation funding based on the existing RFU schedule will be available for journeys in excess of 450 miles return in the quarter finals, semi-finals and final.

Participation funding will be paid to each participating club based on completion of the two pool matches and knockout game. Any club that fails to fulfil a match will not receive any participation funding. Further participation funding will be paid based on progression:

	CUP	SHIELD	BOWL
Fulfilling both pool matches and first knockout match	£1000	£1000	£1000
Knocked out in last 32 match	£500	£400	£300
Knocked out in last 16 match	£700	£600	£500
Knocked out in quarter final	£900	£800	£700
Knocked out in semi final	£1400	£1200	£1000
Reaching final	£2400	£1800	£1500

As an illustration, a club that fulfils all their matches and is knocked out in the last 16 of the Cup receives participation funding totalling £1,700 (£1,000 + £700) in addition to travel payments. A club reaching the Cup final will receive a total of £3,400 in addition to travel.

LEVEL 7/8

Entry to the Level 7/8 Cup will be optional for those teams playing in RFU leagues. Clubs will need to enter by **1st May**.

Each Divisional Organising Committee will determine the format to be used for the early stages of the competition to best meet the needs of the participating teams. This could be either a pool or waterfall knockout competition which feeds teams into a national knockout phase with a Cup and a Shield. Teams needing to be given a bye at any point due to uneven numbers will still receive participation funding as if they had completed their matches.

The first round draw/pools (as applicable) will be published at the same time as the league fixtures are published, enabling clubs to sell sponsorship and promote cup fixtures as part of their match programme for the season. Dates for further knockout stages will be built into the published season structure.

The CUP final will be played at Twickenham with the SHIELD played at a prestige venue on the same day/weekend.

Travel costs will be paid in bandings based on round trips:

50-100 miles - £200

100-250 miles - £400

250 plus miles - £600

Accommodation funding based on the existing RFU schedule will be available for journeys in excess of 450 miles return in the quarter finals, semi-finals and final.

Participation funding will be paid to each participating club based on completion of matches and the point at which they exit the competition. Any club that fails to fulfil a match will not receive any participation funding.

The below is an example of a straight knockout waterfall competition with all teams entering. Where pool stages are used instead the same amount of participation funding will be distributed according to the number of teams entering:	CUP	SHIELD
Lose in Round 1 and knocked out in Round One of Shield	-	£500
Knocked out in Round 2	£600	£600
Knocked out in Round 3	£700	£700

Knocked out in Round 4	£800	£800
Knocked out in Round 5	£900	£900
Knocked out in Round 6	£1000	-
Knocked out in Quarter Final	£1500	£1000
Knocked out in Semi Final	£2000	£1500
Reaching Final	£2500	£2000

LEVEL 9/10

Entry to the Level 9/10 Cup will be optional for those teams playing in RFU leagues. Clubs will need to enter by **1st May**.

Each Divisional Organising Committee will determine the format to be used for the early stages of the competition to best meet the needs of the participating teams. This could be either a pool or waterfall knockout competition which feeds teams into a national knockout phase with a Cup and Shield. Teams needing to be given a bye at any point due to uneven numbers will still receive participation funding as if they had completed their matches.

The first round draw/pools (as applicable) will be published at the same time as the league fixtures are published, enabling clubs to sell sponsorship and promote cup fixtures as part of their match programme for the season. Dates for further knockout stages will be built into the published season structure.

The CUP final will be played at Twickenham with the SHIELD played at a prestige venue on the same day/weekend.

Travel costs will be paid in bandings based on round trips:

50-100 miles - £200

100-250 miles - £400

250 plus miles - £600

Accommodation funding based on the existing RFU schedule will be available for journeys in excess of 450 miles return in the quarter finals, semi-finals and final.

Participation funding will be paid to each participating club based on completion of matches and the point at which they exit the competition. Any club that fails to fulfil a match will not receive any participation funding.

The below is an example of a straight knockout waterfall competition with all teams entering. Where pool stages are used instead the same amount of participation funding will be distributed according to the number of teams entering:	CUP	SHIELD
Lose in Round 1 and knocked out in Round One of Shield	-	£300
Knocked out in Round 2	£400	£400
Knocked out in Round 3	£500	£600
Knocked out in Round 4	£600	£700
Knocked out in Round 5	£700	-
Knocked out in Quarter Final	£1000	£900
Knocked out in Semi Final	£1250	£1000
Reaching Final	£1500	£1200

