



WOMENS SENIOR CUP COMPETITION 2014/15

1. Description

The Competition shall be called 'The Women's Senior Cup' and will include all 8 Premiership Clubs and the top 2 sides from Championship 1 North and the top 2 sides from Championship South 1.

Objectives:

- To improve the standard of players within the clubs in the Premiership and enable them to develop and play without their Elite players.
- To give the top teams in Championship North and South the opportunity to develop and play against Premiership Clubs, which will increase the standard of players within these clubs and therefore reduce the gap with the Premiership.
- To meet the demand from clubs of competitive rugby during international windows.

The competition must be played in accordance with RFU Regulation 16 (Adult Women Competitions) and as set out in this document.

2. The Competition Format and Draws

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

2.2 The pool stage:

For the pool stage, the Clubs will be divided into two pools of six Clubs

Each team will play each other in their pool; the following points shall be awarded based on the results of each Pool Match

- The Club that wins the Match shall be awarded four Match Points or (if it scores five tries or more in the process) five points.
- The Club that loses the Match shall be awarded no Match Points or if it scores five tries or more in the process or loses by a margin of fifteen points or fewer one Match Point or if it scores five tries or more in the process and loses by a margin of fifteen points or fewer two Match Points.
- Clubs that draw a Match shall each be awarded two Match Points and any of them that scores five tries or more in the process shall also be awarded a further one Match Point.

The two pool winners and two runners up will qualify for the Cup knock-out stage, those teams finishing third and fourth in each pool will qualify for the plate knock-out stage.

The pool winners will be decided by reference to the following criteria:

TEAMWORK RESPECT ENJOYMENT DISCIPLINE SPORTSMANSHIP

- 2.2.1 The pool winner will be the Club with the highest number of Match Points in each pool.
- 2.2.2 If two or more Clubs in the same pool end the pool stage equal on Match 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 Organising Committee shall toss a coin.

2.3 The knock-out stage:

- 2.3.1 The knock-out stage shall be divided into two semi-final Matches and a final Match.
- 2.3.2 The semi-final Matches will be knock-out, each played over one Match and the home venue will be drawn by the Competitions Committee.
- 2.3.3 The Cup semi-final Matches shall comprise the top two clubs from each pool, The Plate semi-final shall comprise the third and fourth placed club.

Cup

semi-final 1 Winner Pool 1 v Runner up Pool 2

semi-final 2 Winner Pool 2 v Runner Up Pool 1

Plate

semi-final 1 3rd Pool 1 v 4th Pool 2

semi-final 2 3rd Pool 2 v 4th Pool 1

- 2.3.4 The winners of the four semi-final Matches will proceed to the cup and plate final. The cup and plate final will be played at a Neutral Venue alongside the other RFU Women's Cup Finals
- 2.3.5 In the event of a tie at full-time at either semi-final or the final the winner of that shall be determined by reference to the following:
- (i) There will be 10 minutes extra time
 - (ii) If the scores are tied after extra time, then the Club that has scored the most tries in that Match (including extra time) shall be deemed the winner of that Match.
- 2.3.6 If the Clubs have scored the same number of tries in that Match (including extra time), then the winner of the Match will be determined by a place-kick competition conducted as set out in Appendix One to these Regulations.

3. Dates of Rounds

Round 1 – 16th November 2014

TEAMWORK RESPECT ENJOYMENT DISCIPLINE SPORTSMANSHIP

Round 2 – 8th February 2015
Round 3 – 22nd February 2015
Round 4 – 1st March 2015
Round 5 – 8th March 2015
Semi Final – 15th March 2015
Final – Saturday 11th April 2015

The semi-finals shall be on weekend of 15th March 2015 and the final is on Saturday 11th April 2015

3.1 Each Match must be played on the set date.

In the event that a Match has begun but then has to be abandoned with fewer than sixty minutes having been played because of adverse venue conditions (including but not limited to floodlights, electricity failure, etc) or weather conditions (which decision may only be made by the Match referee, and shall be final and binding on the Clubs), the Competitions Committee shall decide, in its absolute discretion, whether the Match should be replayed or rather whether the result at the time of abandonment should stand.

If a Club fails to fulfil a Match, the matter shall be referred to the Competitions Committee, which shall decide, in its absolute discretion, what the consequences of such failure shall be.

4. Referees

4.1 Each Match shall be played in accordance with the IRB Laws of the Game

4.2 The match officials shall be appointed by the RFU Referees committees

5. Match Squads

5.1 In all matches in the Competition up to seven (7) replacements and substitutes are permitted in accordance with Law 3 and the IRB regulations.

6. Notification of Results

In the Pool Rounds and Semi Final the Home Club shall be responsible for reporting the result to the result line on 01676 478080 or text 07797800102 by 6pm on the day of the match and the match result card (or other communication) must be sent in 5 days after the match has been played.

Appendix One

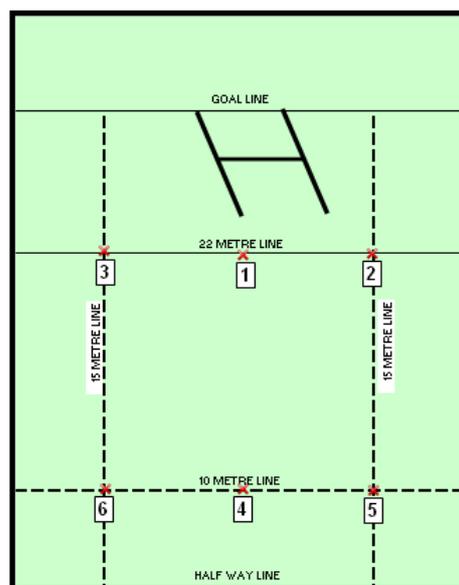
Place Kick Competition

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:

- 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 circle 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.
- The Match officials and the six nominated players (3 from each side) will assemble on the halfway line.
- 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.

TEAMWORK RESPECT ENJOYMENT DISCIPLINE SPORTSMANSHIP

- Each kicker will be allocated a number i.e. Kicker 1, Kicker 2 or Kicker 3. This designation cannot change.
- 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.
- The first phase of the competition will consist of 3 kicks from 3 positions as outlined in the diagram below.
- Each kicker will take kicks in the following order:-
 - All kickers from team A and team B will each take a kick from position **1**.
 - If the scores are level
 - Kicker 1 from team A and Kicker 1 from team B will each take a kick from position **2**.
 - If the scores are still level
 - Kicker 2 from team A and Kicker 2 from team B will each take a kick from position **3**.
 - If the scores are still level
 - Kicker 3 from team A and Kicker 3 from team B will each take a kick from position **4**.
- If the teams are level at the end of this 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.



TEAMWORK RESPECT ENJOYMENT DISCIPLINE SPORTSMANSHIP