



**England
Rugby**

County Championships

**WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
(2017-18)**

WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIONS REGULATIONS 2017-18

(A) Name

The Competitions shall be called the Gill Burns Division 1('Division 1') and the Gill Burns Division 2 ('Division 2') or such other name or names incorporating the name of a sponsor as the RFU shall determine.

(B) Definitions

In these Women's County Competitions Regulations:

“**The Committee**” shall mean the Women's County Championship sub-committee

“**Residence**” for a full time bona fide student whilst attending a recognised educational establishment shall mean either her permanent home address or her (for the time being) student accommodation address;

In addition except where the context otherwise requires or permits, the words and expressions listed in the Definitions set out in RFU Regulation 1 shall bear the meanings given to them therein.

(C) Format of Women's County Competitions

1. The Division 1 shall be contested between the 14 participating counties. The 14 counties will be split into two pools of 4 teams and two pools of 3 teams (pools and fixtures in the Appendix).
 - (i) Each team will play the other teams in its pool once only either at Home or Away
 - (ii) The winners of each pool will contest the semi-finals of the Division 1 and the winners of the semi-finals will contest the final of the Division 1.
2. The Division 2 shall be contested between the 14 participating counties and will be divided into two pools of 4 and two pools of 3 (pools and fixtures in the Appendix).
 - (i) Each team will play the other teams in its Pool once only, either at home or away
 - (ii) The winners of each pool will contest the semi-finals of the Division 2 and the winners of the semi-finals will contest the final of the Division 2
3. All matches shall be played in accordance with World Rugby Laws and Regulations (including any such Law trials or variations to which the RFU may agree) and RFU Rules and Regulations insofar as they are applicable save where such RFU Regulations are in conflict with these County Competitions Regulations in which event these County Competitions Regulations will prevail.
4. The Committee will determine the composition or changes to the composition of all the pools, the fixture schedule, the draws and venue for the Women's Division 1 Final and Division 2 Final.
5. In pool matches the winner of each match will receive 4 Competition Points. If a match is drawn, each team will receive 2 Competition Points. Teams will receive 1 Bonus Competition Point if it scored 4 or more tries in a match. Teams will receive 1 Bonus Competition Point if it loses a pool match by 7 match points or less. The winner of the pool will be the County with the most Competition Points after all matches in the pool have been played.
6. In the case of equality of Competition Points, positions in the pool shall be determined firstly by the number of wins and draws achieved in the Competition and then on the basis of match points differential in the Competition. A County with a larger number of wins shall be placed higher than a County with the same number of competition points but fewer wins. A County with a larger number of draws shall be placed ahead of a County with a fewer number of draws. If Counties have equal competition points and equal number of wins and draws then a County with a larger difference between match points “for” and match points “against”

shall be placed higher in the Division than a Club with a smaller difference between match points “for” and match points “against”. Should two Counties have the same number of competition points, the same wins and draws, and the same match points difference, the Counties having scored more match points “for” shall be placed higher in the pool than the County having the lesser number of match points “for”. If this still does not establish the positions then the positions of the Counties involved shall be determined by a toss of coin.

(D) Eligibility of Players & Teams

1. All players must be a minimum of 18 years of age unless otherwise permitted to play adult rugby in accordance with RFU Regulation 15.5.5.
2. Subject to this Regulation D a player may only play in the Women’s County Competitions for a County in which:
 - (i) she was born; or
 - (ii) she has completed not less than 6 months Residence within the County concerned in the preceding 12 months; or
 - (iii) she has played for a County in a previous Women’s County Competition and who was qualified to play for that County under the Regulations then in effect. Any such player shall remain eligible to play for that County until such time as she qualifies for and plays for another County in any of the Competitions; or
 - (iv) she is an Effectively Registered Player of a Club allocated to the County on the date of the match.
3. No player or named replacement attending on the day of a match may represent more than one County in a Season.
4. If a player is eligible for more than one County in a season, the player may select which county to represent but once opted for a county for a particular season and played one match in the competition for that county, the player cannot change to play for another county in the same season.
5. No county shall pay and no player shall receive, in each case whether directly or indirectly, any monetary benefit for participating in the Competition.
6. The following players are not eligible to play in any tier of the Competition:
 - (i) A player who has been part of an international senior squad, in the past two seasons, for a country who qualified for the 2017 Women’s Rugby World Cup.
 - (ii) A player who has been part of an international sevens squad in the 2016-17 and/or 2017-18 Sevens World Series.
7. A County may not play or select as a replacement or substitute in a match day squad more than six (6) players who have been selected in a match day squad for the first team of a Women’s Premier 15s club. There is no cap on the number of second team Women’s Premier 15s players provided those players have only been selected the second team Women’s Premier 15s squad.

(E) Replacements, Substitutions and Front Row requirements

1. The number of replacements and substitutes shall not be more than seven, with five players in the match squad being able to play front row.
2. Rolling substitutions are permitted in the Competition and the specific regulations relating to replacements and substitutions in relation to cup competitions are set out in Appendix 2 of RFU Regulation 13, including the relevant provisions around rolling substitutions, uncontested scrums and front row. For the purposes of this

competition, Appendix 2 of Regulation 13 shall be applicable to the women's competition to the extent that the regulations apply to Cup competitions.

(F) Grounds

1. Except in the Finals the home County is responsible for correctly and clearly marking its pitch, and must make proper provision to ensure that (with the exception of the touch judges, the fourth official, the medical staff and water carriers who shall be limited to two in addition to the medical staff) all spectators, replacements coaching staff and officials are kept behind a permanent or semi permanent pitch perimeter barrier at a reasonable distance from the field of play and make provision for two areas one for each team) each not exceeding 10 square metres (each of which when occupied will not in any way impede a touch judge undertaking his responsibilities) to be clearly designated between the touchline and any perimeter or pitch side fencing or other barrier as being that to which medical staff and water carriers when not attending to their duties as permitted by the referee are to be restricted during the match.
2. Participating Counties in a match must ensure that team replacements and coaches are behind any perimeter or pitch side fencing or other barriers during all periods of playing the match.
3. A decision as to the fitness of the ground for playing a match must be made as early as realistically possible having regard to the travel and other commitments of the visiting County. If a County wishes to cancel a match because of ground conditions on the day before the match is scheduled to be played the Competitions Executive should be contacted to discuss options

(G) Un-played Matches

1. If conditions prevent any match (except the Final) being played or a match is abandoned because of such conditions before full time, the Referee shall indicate on the Match Result Sheet the score at the time and reason for abandonment and the number of minutes played. The Committee shall determine whether the match is to be played or replayed or whether any score shall decide the result and its decision shall be final and binding. Each county must submit in writing to the RFU richardtamp@rfu.com within 48 hours of the end of the match, any representations they wish to make to the Committee are to consider in making its decision.
2. If conditions prevent the Final of the Competitions being played the Committee shall determine whether or not the same shall be played and if so upon what date and at which venue and such decision shall be final and binding.
3. The referee's decision as to the necessity for abandonment and the number of minutes played at the moment of abandonment shall be final

(H) Kits

In the event of Counties having clashing or similar colours; the home team shall be responsible for changing its colours subject to the satisfaction of the appointed Referee or his nominee.

(I) Notification of Match Results

In all matches both teams shall complete and sign the Match Result Sheet provided by the RFU. The home team shall send the completed form to the RFU (or as it directs) within 90 minutes of the final whistle. Additionally, (if so directed by the RFU) the home team shall telephone the result to whomsoever the RFU specifies as soon as reasonably practical after the whistle.

(J) Finance

The Committee shall notify the relevant Counties of its decision regarding funding and distribute monies in its absolute discretion as it considers appropriate for the benefit of the Counties.

(K) Jurisdiction and Breaches of Regulations

1. These Regulations are supplemental to the RFU Regulations which, for the avoidance of doubt, shall have full force and effect save that in the event of conflict between these Regulations and the RFU Regulations, the RFU Regulations (to the extent that they affect the Clubs) are deemed varied by these Regulations.
2. The Competition will be organised by the Committee. The Committee shall have the power to delegate any or all of its powers, duties or obligations under these Regulations to such person or persons as it may decide.
3. In respect of any matters alleged to be in breach of these Regulations and/or RFU Regulations, such matters shall be referred immediately to the Committee c/o the RFU Rugby Events & Competitions Department in writing or by telephone if necessary, within 24 hours following the conclusion of a match. In any event written confirmation must be sent to the RFU Rugby Events & Competitions Department within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match setting out the grounds of the complaint/breach in full.
4. Subject to a right of appeal in accordance with Regulation K(5) below, the Committee shall have the power to discipline and sanction any party for breach of any of these Regulations and/or any RFU Regulations. Ignorance of these Regulations will not be deemed an excuse in the event of any breach.
5. Should that party wish to appeal a decision of the Organising Committee, that party shall have a right to appeal in accordance with RFU Regulation 19.

(L) DISCIPLINE

When a player is sent off or cited in any match in this competition, the disciplinary regulations and procedures set out in RFU Regulation 19 will apply.

Appendix 2 Gill Burns Division 1

Gill Burns Division 1	Round 1 - 29th April	Round 2 - 6th May	Round 2 - 13th May	Semi Final - 20th May	Final - 27th May	
Pool 1						
Durham	Durham V Lancashire	East Midlands V Durham	Lancashire V East Midlands	Semi Final 1 Pool 1 Winner V Pool 2 Winner (Host Venue)	Semi Final 1 Winner V Semi Final 2 Winner	
East Midlands	East Midlands V North Midlands	North Midlands V Lancashire	North Midlands V Durham			
Lancashire						
North Midlands						
Pool 2						
Cumbria	Northumberland V Cumbria	Cumbria V Yorkshire	Cumbria V BYE			
Northumberland	Yorkshire V BYE	Northumberland V BYE	Yorkshire V Northumberland			
Yorkshire						
Pool 3						
Berkshire	Devon V Berkshire	Berkshire V Kent	Gloucestershire V Berkshire	Semi Final 2 Pool 3 Winner (Host Venue)		
Devon	Gloucestershire V Kent	Devon V Gloucestershire	Kent V Devon			
Kent						
Gloucestershire						
Pool 4						
Middlesex	Middlesex V Surrey	Middlesex V BYE	Surrey V BYE	V Pool 4 Winner		
Surrey	Sussex V BYE	Surrey V Sussex	Sussex V Middlesex			
Sussex						

All matches are currently set on a Sunday as per the Women's calendar but we are happy if both Counties are in agreement for the game to be played anytime over the weekend.

Appendix 2 Gill Burns Division 2

Gill Burns Division 2	Round 1 - 29th April	Round 2 - 6th May	Round 2 - 13th May	Semi Final - 20th May	Final - 27th May
Pool 1					
Cheshire	Leicestershire V Notts, Lincs & Derbyshire Staffordshire V Cheshire	Cheshire V Notts, Lincs & Derbyshire Staffordshire V Leicestershire	Leicestershire V Cheshire Notts, Lincs & Derbyshire V Staffordshire	Semi Final 1	
Leicestershire					
Notts, Lincs & Derbyshire					
Staffordshire					
Pool 2					
Buckinghamshire	Buckinghamshire V BYE Eastern Counties V Oxfordshire	Eastern Counties V BYE Oxfordshire V Buckinghamshire	Buckinghamshire V Eastern Counties Oxfordshire V BYE	Pool 1 Winner V Pool 2 Winner <i>(Host Venue)</i>	Semi Final 1 Winner V Semi Final 2 Winner
Eastern Counties					
Oxfordshire					
Pool 3					
Cornwall	Dorset & Wilts V Cornwall Hertfordshire V Somerset	Cornwall V Somerset Dorset & Wilts V Hertfordshire	Cornwall V Hertfordshire Somerset V Dorset & Wilts	Semi Final 2	
Dorset & Wilts					
Hertfordshire					
Somerset					
Pool 4					
Essex County	Essex County V BYE Warwickshire V Hampshire	Hampshire V Essex County Warwickshire V BYE	Essex County V Warwickshire Hampshire V BYE	Pool 3 Winner <i>(Host Venue)</i> V Pool 4 Winner	
Hampshire					
Warwickshire					

All matches are currently set on a Sunday as per the Women's calendar but we are happy if both Counties are in agreement for the game to be played anytime over the weekend.