

GAME REGULATIONS INDEX 2009/10

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GAME REGULATIONS ('GR') 2009/10

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SECTION A – GENERAL GAME REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL MATCHES

All matches played or managed or controlled by any Club or other organization or body under the jurisdiction of the RFU must comply with Section A.

REGULATION 1 – GENERAL

1.1 Definitions

For the purposes of these Game Regulations, the definitions set out in the section marked 'Definitions' shall apply.

1.2 Compliance with iRB Laws and RFU Rules and Regulations

1.2.1 All matches played under the jurisdiction of the RFU and/or in RFU Competitions or any other competition or merit table must be played in accordance with iRB Laws and Regulations, RFU Rules and Regulations (including Game Regulations 1-10), and any applicable Age Grade Variations. In addition, all matches played in RFU Competitions must be played in accordance Game Regulations 11-21.

1.2.2 The playing of the Game or any modification or derivation thereof between male and female teams or teams containing male and female players is permissible only within the RFU Continuum and in accordance with the Continuum Regulations or in all forms of non-contact, touch, or tag rugby.

1.3 Interpretation

1.3.1 The Committee shall have discretion to decide on matters not provided for in (and in the interpretation of) Game Regulations 11-21 and the Appendices in the context of all RFU Competitions other than the Guinness Premiership & the Championship and at its discretion to decide on all matters not provided for or upon which interpretation is required in any rules or regulations of any other competition or merit table save where it is such a competition or merit table managed or controlled by a Constituent Body. For the avoidance of doubt, this discretion shall include the interpretation of these Game Regulations in accordance with the underlying principles and intent (insofar as it can be ascertained) of the relevant regulation and the interests of the game of rugby union football.

1.3.2 The Committee's decision(s) in respect of those matters referred to in Game Regulation 1.3.1 above is final and binding save for any Club's right to appeal or review or such other rights of appeal or review as may be reserved.

1.3.3 In any appeal, the Appeal Panel shall have discretion only in exceptional circumstances to act in any manner it sees fit provided that it is of the opinion that the application of these Game Regulations (or other rules or regulations referred to in Game Regulation 1.3.1 above) has resulted or would result in a perverse and/or unfair outcome. In all cases where the Appeal Panel exercises that discretion, the Disciplinary Officer (or the President where the Disciplinary Officer chaired the Appeal Panel) must review the decision within 96 hours of receipt of the written judgment to affirm the view of the Appeal Panel. If the Disciplinary Officer (or the President) is of the opinion that the case is not exceptional and the original decision was not perverse and/or unfair he may substitute the original decision for that of the

Appeal Panel. This review process will be by consideration of the papers presented to the Appeal Panel only, there being no right for any party to make any further submissions.

- 1.3.4 In the event that two Clubs playing in any Cup Competition are from different levels in the League and there are different regulations applicable thereto which would apply to the Match in question the regulations applicable to the lower placed Club will apply save in so far as they are not in conflict with these Game Regulations.

1.4 Conflict

In event of conflict between these Game Regulations and the Appendices hereto, the Appendices shall prevail.

1.5 Severability

If any provision in these Game Regulations is found by any court or competent authority to be illegal, void or unenforceable, such provisions shall be deemed to be deleted and the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect. Such provision must also be replaced by a provision which is valid and enforceable and which gives effect to the spirit of the Game Regulations.

REGULATION 2 – POWERS & DELEGATION

2.1 Powers

These Game Regulations are made by the Council pursuant to its powers as set out in the RFU Rules and may only be amended by the Council or its delegate.

2.2 Delegation by RFU

The Council delegates the following powers to the Committee

- (i) to manage RFU Competitions (other than the Guinness Premiership and the Championship) involving teams competing solely within the jurisdiction of the RFU and to recommend policies and Game Regulations for such Competitions;
- (ii) to recommend a draft Structured Competitions Season for the following Season for approval by the Governance Standing Committee and Management Board;
- (iii) to make recommendations upon the principles for the allocation of finance made available for RFU Competitions;
- (iv) to consider for approval the principles of the competitions submitted for approval by Constituent Bodies and Clubs and to produce an annual budget therefor;
- (v) to assume such other responsibilities as the Governance Standing Committee may from time to time determine;
- (vi) to submit regular reports upon its deliberations and proposals to the Governance Standing Committee.

2.3 Power of Competitions Sub-Committee to delegate

2.3.1 The Committee may delegate such powers as it deems appropriate with the exception of the powers contained in the following Game Regulations which are reserved to the Committee:

- (a) 2.3.4;

- (b) 2.4; except 2.4.3 (a)
- (c) 12.2.1; and
- (d) 14.1.

2.3.2 The Committee hereby makes the following delegations

- (a) The NCA Committee as the Organising Committee in relation to National Leagues 1 and 2 North and 2 South (Levels 3 and 4 respectively)
- (b) – The appropriate Divisional Organising Committee as the Organising Committee in relation to the Levels 5 and below.

2.3.3 Those bodies referred to in 2.3.2 (a) and (b) above to whom the Committee has delegated powers may further delegate those powers, subject to the approval of the Committee, to any Division, Constituent Body or other person, firm or company, media agency or competition administrator. They may also produce Administrative Instructions for the management of RFU Competitions for which they are responsible provided that any such Administrative Instructions and any variation to these Game Regulations have been specifically and previously approved by the Committee.

2.3.4 In any event the Management Board and/or the Committee shall have the right of its own volition to review any decision of any Organising Committee, Division, Constituent Body or other person, firm or company, media agency or competition administrator made in relation to these Regulations (whether disciplinary organisational, administrative or executive), and vary the same (provided always that any Club or person affected by any decision made under this Regulation shall have a right of appeal to an Appeals Panel).

2.4 Power to amend or vary or make further provisions

2.4.1 The Committee shall have discretion during a Season to amend or vary Game Regulations 11-22 (inclusive) and the Appendices and/or to make further regulations for an RFU Competition

- (a) only in accordance with Game Regulations 2.4.2 and/or 2.4.3; or
- (b) solely to implement the League Restructuring either where there is an error in or omission from the said Regulations and/or Appendices.

2.4.2 In the event that a Club, Divisional Organising Committee or Constituent Body wishes to seek the amendment or variation of Game Regulations 11-21 (inclusive) or the Appendices and/or the making of further regulations by the Committee, the following procedure must be applied:

- (a) the Club, Divisional Organising Committee or Constituent Body must:
 - (i) prior to the commencement of the Season, provide written notice (explaining the proposed amendment or variation) to all those Clubs affected; and
 - (ii) submit a written application, together with full detail and supporting evidence, supported by its Constituent Body;

- (b) the Committee must then:
 - (i) give reasonable (and in any event not less than 7 days) notice to other Clubs that might be affected so that adequate opportunity is given for Clubs that might be affected to express their views, meaningful and adequate consultation takes place with all Clubs that might be affected and no Club in a Constituent Body not a party to such an application is in any way affected or adversely prejudiced by any amendment to or variation of a Game Regulation(s) or the introduction of any further regulation pursuant to the said application;
 - (ii) consult with any other interested party (which it in its sole discretion deems appropriate) together with the appropriate Organising Committee and if applicable sponsor; and
 - (iii) be satisfied prior to its introduction that any amendment, variation, or new regulation is in the interests of the game of rugby union football and does not adversely affect or prejudice an RFU Competition, any sponsor, or other Clubs in an RFU Competition
- (c) the amendment, variation, or new regulation shall only be effective during the Season if the Committee is satisfied that written notice under paragraph (a)(ii) above has been given to all those Clubs affected prior to the commencement of the Season.

2.4.3 In the event that the Committee considers it is in the interests of Rugby Union Football or an RFU Competition, it may amend or vary Game Regulations 11-21 (inclusive) and the Appendices and/or make further regulations during a Season. In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing:

- (a) where in the view of the Committee it is in the interests of Rugby Union Football or any RFU Competition or for any other reason for the procedures under Game Regulation 10 to be expedited or shortened particularly to ensure that final decisions in relation to disputed date(s) of the playing of matches can be taken prior to the dates prescribed for the playing of such matches or where it is necessary to finalise matters at the end of the Season, the Committee may shorten the periods of time prescribed in Game Regulation 10;
- (b) where in the view of the Committee exceptional and material circumstances have occurred during any RFU Competition which either have not been provided for in or cannot be equitably dealt with under these Game Regulations (particularly if promotion or relegation is likely to be materially affected), the Committee may at its own instigation introduce regulations for the current Season and/or determine the results of matches that have not been played for reasons related to the above exceptional and material circumstances and/or determine which Clubs should or should not be relegated;
- (c) any regulation or decision made or taken by the Committee under this Regulation shall become final and binding unless any person or Club affected has given notice of an appeal to the RFU Disciplinary Manager within 48 hours of that person or Club affected being made aware of it and an Appeals Panel rules that the regulation or decision of the committee shall not apply.

2.4.4 Any amendment or variation of Game Regulations 11-21 (inclusive) and the Appendices and/or further regulations shall be reviewed by Council at the end of the Season.

REGULATION 3 – OVERSEAS AND INCOMING TOURS/MATCHES

- 3.1 Subject to Regulation 3.3 below no Constituent Body, Club, Team or Player may arrange or fulfill an Overseas Tour or a fixture or series of fixtures with a team coming from another union at any level (including Mini, Midi and junior rugby) without previously:
- (a) obtaining the appropriate Constituent Body's written endorsement (except for a Premiership & Championship club's senior adult teams); and
 - (b) in the case of an Overseas Tour arranging travel and other insurance at least equal to the cover and benefits of the RFU's Accidental Death and Disability Insurance Scheme (Tours Extension); and
 - (c) giving at least one month's notice to the RFU of the proposed Overseas or Incoming Tour (with details of the fixture or fixtures to be played), such notice to be accompanied by evidence of the insurance referred to in (b) above together with copies of such permissions and consents as may be required under iRB Regulations; and
 - (d) complying with any such conditions or requirements as the RFU may impose upon receipt of the documents referred to in (b) above. (For the avoidance of doubt the RFU shall have the right to refuse to permit Overseas Tour/Incoming Tour to take place).
- 3.2 Within one month of completing an Overseas Tour, the official in charge shall submit to the RFU an official Report Form duly completed.
- 3.3 The RFU hereby consents to Overseas and Incoming Tours and matches against all clubs from Ireland, Wales and Scotland providing the requisite insurance pursuant to Regulation 3.1 (c) is in effect.
- 3.4 The RFU may in exceptional circumstances delegate to a Constituent Body all or any of its powers under this Regulation 3 in relation to any Club or team a member of that Constituent Body.

REGULATION 4 – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND MEDIA RIGHTS

4.1 Registered Marks

No Club or Constituent Body or Organising Committee or any member or group of members thereof either alone or jointly with others may use, or permit to be used, any of the RFU's registered marks (including the Rose) without the prior written approval of the RFU Management Board or its delegate. Requests for approval should be submitted to the RFU Business Operations Department.

4.2 Copyright and Other Rights

The copyright in the fixtures lists and draws together with the database and other rights of and in Competitions shall vest in the RFU and must not be reproduced either in whole or in part except with the written consent of the RFU. The RFU hereby grants consent to the Organising Committees, Constituent Bodies and/or Clubs to reproduce fixture lists.

4.3 Media Rights

- 4.3.1 Media Rights together with their sole right of exploitation save insofar as has otherwise been expressly agreed belong to the RFU.
- 4.3.2 No Constituent Body or Club participating in any RFU Competition shall have or purport to have the right to exploit, license, sell, lease, franchise, grant or in any other way dispose of

all or any part of the Media Rights save that of each participant in the Competition may use the RFU Competition's name or the RFU Competition's sponsor's name.

- 4.3.3 Each Constituent Body or Club participating in any RFU Competition will permit access to its ground without demanding any fee or payment to any person firm or company wishing to film, televise or broadcast any match in any RFU Competition provided such filming, broadcasting or televising is undertaken by a Company to whom the RFU sold such rights or has been previously agreed by the RFU which agreement will not be unreasonably withheld or delayed where it will not cause a breach of any contract but not further or otherwise.

4.4 Broadcasting Rights

No Constituent Body or Club shall take any part (either as organiser or participant or in any other way) in any match in England that is in whole or in part broadcast by means of radio, television or any other audio-visual or electronic media where doing so shall be a breach of any broadcasting or other contract entered into by the RFU or any other person acting for or on behalf of itself or any group or association of Clubs, Constituent Bodies or Unions.

REGULATION 5 – WEBSITES

The Executive Committee and/or Management Board of a Constituent Body, Organising Committee, Federated Referee Society, Referee Society or Club is responsible for the contents of its official Website or any Website which purports to be official. Any such body must ensure the contents of their Websites are not offensive and do not contain any material which brings the Game or the RFU into disrepute or is prejudicial to the interests of the RFU. Failure to comply with this Game Regulation will be subject to disciplinary action under RFU Rule 5.12.

REGULATION 6 – SEASON

- 6.1 RFU Competition Seasons (during which all RFU Competitions, merit tables and local leagues must be played with the exception of representative rugby, play-offs and 7-a-side or similar competitions) shall be:

Season 2009/2010 will start on Saturday 29 August 2009 until Monday 24 May 2010

Season 2010/2011 will start on Saturday 28 August 2010 until Monday 30 May 2011

- 6.2 Non-RFU Competition matches can be played at any time.
- 6.3 Players under 18 years of age (unless they fall within Schools & Youth Regulation 2.2) may not play in contact matches between the first Tuesday immediately following the May Day Bank Holiday and 31 August inclusive unless otherwise authorised by the RFU Management Board or persons to whom the Management Board delegates that authority. Overseas tours and Trials are exempt from this regulation.
- 6.4 Summer Camps can only take place subject to the prior approval as appropriate of the RFU.
- 6.5 In the ten (10) days immediately preceding the start of the Season club and school U18 teams (which may include U16 and U17 players) are permitted to participate in pre-season practice matches and Festivals in accordance with Schools & Youth Regulation 7.

REGULATION 7 – REPLACEMENTS AND SUBSTITUTES

7.1 General

- 7.1.1 Replacements are permitted in all matches in accordance with iRB Law 3 and Regulations as well as the RFU Rules and Regulations (including for the avoidance of doubt Game Regulation 7.2 below in respect of RFU Competitions) and any additional procedures in place for an RFU Competition (such as substitution cards).
- 7.1.2 Replacements and/or substitutes must be named to the Referee or Match Official no later than 15 minutes before the commencement of a match.
- 7.1.3 A player participating in a match can be used as a replacement or substitute in another match being played at the same time. Injured players may be replaced by players from another pitch. It is also possible to replace the replaced or substituted player from another pitch or by a nominated replacement/substitute.
- 7.1.4 Players who were replacements or substitutes in an earlier match may participate in a later match on the same day.
- 7.1.5 The attendance of replacements and/or substitutes is not compulsory. If one team wishes to use replacements or substitutes then it may do so even if the other does not.

7.2 Number of Replacements and Substitutes

League

- 7.2.1 The number of replacements and substitutes in all League Matches shall be as follows:
- (a) National League 1 and National Leagues 2 North and 2 South (Levels 3 and 4): not more than five;
 - (b) at any Level below Level 4: not more than three (unless a variation has been authorised by the Organising Committee under Game Regulation 2.4).
- 7.2.2 The number of replacements and substitutes in all Play-Off Matches at any Level below Level 4 shall be not more than four.

Cup

- 7.2.3 The number of replacements and substitutes in all Cup Matches shall be up to eight in accordance with Law 3.15, the iRB Regulations and any current RFU Regulations relating thereto.

7.3 Front Row

Requirements

- (a) With the exception of those Players who fall within Schools & Youth Regulation 2.2(b) (who are aged seventeen) no player may play in the front row of the scrum during contested or uncontested scrummages in adult rugby until he has reached his eighteenth birthday. Any breach of this Game Regulation shall be considered a serious breach and may give rise to a severe penalty.

- (b) In the interest of safety
- (i) in League and Play Off Matches each team must have at least five players (or at Level 5 and below in League Matches, four players) in their nominated match squad, all at least eighteen years old (unless they are a player falling within Schools & Youth Regulation 2.2(b)), who are suitably trained and experienced to be capable of playing in the front row to ensure that on the first or second occasions (whether due to injury or consequent to a player(s) being temporarily suspended or ordered off) that a front row player is required to be replaced,
 - (ii) in Cup Matches each team must have **at least six (6)** 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 in any front row position 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.

- (c) Subject to (e) below in League Matches, Cup Matches and Play Off Matches if on any occasion **other** than a temporary blood injury uncontested scrums are ordered by the Referee having made enquiry of and having confirmed with the captain of the team (or such other person nominated by the Club as the manager or other person responsible for the team) there is no suitably trained and experienced front row replacement in accordance with 7.3(a) & (b) above due to 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 a front row player who has been temporarily excluded the Match shall continue with contested scrums provided that it is safe to do so. Subject to (f) below the result of the match shall stand.
- (d) Subject to (e) below where due to a temporary blood injury in League Matches, Cup Matches and Play Off Matches uncontested scrums are ordered by the Referee having made enquiry of and having confirmed with the captain of the team (or such other person nominated by the Club as the manager or other person responsible for the team) there being no suitably trained and experienced front row replacement in accordance with 7.3(a) & (b) above the team concerned shall be entitled to replace the player whose departure caused the uncontested scrums. In the event that the temporarily injured player has not returned to the field of play within fifteen (15) minutes so that the match can be safely played with contested scrums the referee must declare that scrums will be uncontested for the remainder of the match and will ask the team captain from the team which has failed to provide a suitably trained replacement to immediately remove from the field of play one player so that the match is concluded with the team failing to provide a suitably trained and experienced front row replacement comprising 14 players. Subject to (f) below the result of the match shall stand.
- (e) In the event that in any League or Play Off Match to which these regulations apply the game is being played with uncontested scrums pursuant to regulation (c) and/or (d) above two players from one team having been removed from the pitch and a third occasion occurs where due to injury, permanent or temporary exclusion or temporary removal for a blood injury of or to a front row forward from that team match

- (i) In a League Match – the match shall be abandoned and subsequently the provisions of Game Regulation 18.2.2 shall apply.
 - (ii) Play-off matches – the match be abandoned. The result will then be determined by the appropriate Organising Committee of the League concerned. The Organising Committee may confirm or reverse the result and/or order the match to be replayed (on a date decided upon by the Organising Committee) and/or impose some other sanction.
 - (iv) Cup Competitions (including finals) – the result will stand subject to Game Regulation 7.3. (f) below.
- (f) If a Match is completed with or contains uncontested scrums, the Club that was responsible for causing uncontested scrums must upon the request of the Organising Committee (or \Committee in the case of Cup Match) provide to it such information as it may require including if requested a medical report identifying the injuries sustained by its front row players if the Club Doctor or other qualified person had attended the Match. The Organising Committee (or Committee in the case of a Cup Match) may take such action it deems appropriate (including altering the result or ordering a replay of the Match) in respect of any suspected, alleged or actual breach of this Regulation 7.3. as it shall decide and shall notify all Clubs. Any Club may appeal against the decision of the Organising Committee in accordance with Regulation 10.2.10.

REGULATION 8 - MATCH OFFICIALS

8.1 Appointments

8.1.1 Referees and Touch Judges

- (a) The RFU reserves the right to directly (or through the Committee, or a Federation or the home Club's Referees Society as the RFU may in its absolute discretion decide) appoint Referees and/or Touch Judges to any match played in England:
 - (i) in which an England representative XV is playing; or
 - (ii) in any competition which involves a club in membership of the RFU and/or of a Constituent Body or a representative team of a Constituent Body; or
 - (iii) in which a representative team of a Constituent Body is participating; or
 - (iv) which involves a team from any other Union;
 - (v) in any Play-Off Match between Clubs at Level 4; or
 - (vi) in all rounds of the Senior Cup and British & Irish Cup, and the quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals of all other Cup Competitions.
- (b) Where the RFU has exercised the right in paragraph (a) above, the match may only take place with Referees and/or Touch Judges appointed by the RFU and subject to 8 (d) below Law 6 shall apply

- (c) In any RFU Competition match (for avoidance of doubt including Champions Cup, Intermediate Cup, Senior Vase & Junior Vase) at Level 5 and below the Committee or Organising Committee may request that suitably qualified touch judges be appointed and direct which Club should pay the costs thereof. If the Organising Committee makes such a request, touch judges shall be appointed by the RFU, the home Club's Referees Society, or the Federation of Referees Societies to which the home Club's Referee's Society belongs provided that the relevant body agrees to such appointment and that suitably qualified touch judges are available.
- (d) At level 5 and below (and for avoidance of doubt including Champions Cup, Intermediate Cup, Senior Vase & Junior Vase) Law 6 shall apply and Touch Judges may report incidents of foul play and misconduct to the Referee only where:
 - (i) the RFU, the home Club's Referees Society or the Federation of Referees Societies has appointed Touch Judges (in accordance with 8.1.1(c) above); and
 - (ii) the two clubs have specifically agreed with the appointment and the application of Law 6 prior to the match.
- (e) In a Play-Off Match and a Champions Cup Match:
 - (i) between Clubs at Level 5 and below, Match Officials will be appointed by the Referees Society to which the Home Club pays a subscription (or that which is local to the Home Club and which at the request of the Home Club normally supplies referees) unless the appointments are made by the RFU or by the Federation of Referees Societies to which the home Club's Referee's Society is a member. Match Officials cannot be appointed from the Constituent Body of which either Club is a member except at the discretion of the Divisional Organising Committee; and
 - (ii) having appointed suitably qualified touch judges, Law 6 shall apply.
- (f) A Referees' Society, Federation or RFU cannot refuse to appoint Match Officials to any particular Club for disciplinary reasons unless the matter has completed the appropriate disciplinary process (to which the complainant Society, Federation or the RFU Department as the case may be shall be invited and be able to make representations or have them made on their behalf) and during the course of that disciplinary process consent has been given to that course of action.
- (g) In the absence of appointment in accordance with paragraph (a) to (e) above, each Club shall provide a competent Touch Judge who should not be a Replacement. In an emergency and with the consent of the Referee, a Replacement may act as a Touch Judge.
- (h) Unless stated in 8.1.1. paragraph (a) to (g) above, the Referee Society which supplies referees to the home Club shall appoint the appropriate match official.

8.1.2 Fourth Officials (Levels 1-4, Senior Cup, British & Irish Cup, Champions Cup and also Semi-Finals and Finals of Intermediate Cup, Senior Vase and Junior Vase)

Save where one is appointed by the RFU, the home Club shall appoint a suitable person to act as the Fourth Official who will act under the authority of the Referee and in accordance with any authorised protocol.

8.1.3 Confirmation

- (a) Save where a Cup Match is held on a neutral ground (in which case the RFU has responsibility), it is the responsibility of the home Club to confirm at least 48 hours before the match with (as appropriate) the RFU, its Referee's Society, or the Federated Society of which the home Club's Referee's Society is a member that a referee (and in National Leagues the Touch Judges) has been appointed.
- (b) It is the home Club's responsibility to liaise with the appointed Match Officials directly to ensure that the Match Officials are aware of the arrangements and have the appropriate directions to the venue for the match (or any change of venue).

8.2 Incapacity/Non Attendance of Match Officials

- 8.2.1 If the Referee appointed or provided under this Game Regulation has not arrived at the agreed kick-off time or if the Referee is unable to officiate for the whole of the match for any reason the Senior Touch Judge where appointed will referee the match.
- 8.2.2 In the event the Senior Touch Judge is unable to continue to officiate for the whole of the match in question then another suitably qualified referee who is agreed by both team captains (or such other official or manager of the Club nominated by the Club) will take charge. Any agreement reached between team captains in relation to replacement referees shall thereafter be binding upon the Clubs.
- 8.2.3 In any RFU Competition, if no other suitably qualified referee is available [or if both team captains (or such other official or manager of the Club nominated by the Club) do not agree to him], the match shall be abandoned and the provisions of Game Regulation 18 will apply. If there is no agreement then that match is void and it must be replayed in accordance with the provisions of Game Regulation 18.
- 8.2.4 At Levels 5 & below the captains of the two Clubs concerned may agree that a replacement referee can officiate and the result shall count in the Competition. Any agreement reached between team captains in relation to replacement referees shall thereafter be binding upon the Clubs.

8.3 Decisions of Match Officials

In all matches, any decision taken by the appointed Match Officials or their replacements shall be final and binding insofar as the Laws of the Game are concerned.

8.4 Comments of Match Officials

Any comment or opinion expressed regarding these Game Regulations, or the interpretation or the effect thereof by any Match Official on any circumstance that might occur before, during or after a match is not final or binding on the RFU, the Committee or an Appeal Panel. No Club or person can rely on any such comment or opinion.

8.5 Approaches to Match Officials

No person shall approach the Match Officials at any time during the half-time interval to discuss any issue arising from the first half of the match nor shall enter the referee's changing room during the half time interval unless invited to do so by the referee.

REGULATION 9 – MEDICAL SAFETY

- 9.1 Rugby is a physical contact sport. Injuries can and do occur as a result of playing rugby, either through isolated injuries or through continuous playing of the game over time. Participants should always consider their own fitness before commencing the playing of rugby and before any game. Participants should consider their own medical advice before playing and especially following an injury (following concussion this is mandatory).
- 9.2 The safety of all players is of paramount importance and therefore all clubs must ensure that, wherever the game is played or training is conducted:
- (a) there is appropriate first aid cover and equipment provided, determined by a risk assessment;
 - (b) there is access to a telephone to ensure emergency services can be called immediately; and
 - (c) there is clear vehicular access for an ambulance or other emergency vehicle.

For guidance as to what is appropriate for each level of the game please see the RFU's website.

- 9.3 Each Club must report to the RFU or as it may direct in accordance with the RFU's injury reporting system any injury which results in an individual being admitted to a hospital save for those taken to an Accident or Emergency Department and allowed home from there and any death occurring during or within 6 hours of the game finishing. Please see pages 159 to 164 of this Handbook.

REGULATION 10 – DISCIPLINARY POWERS AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

10.1 Disciplinary Powers

- 10.1.1 Specifically and without prejudice to such other powers as may have been granted or referred to elsewhere in these Game Regulations and subject always to a right of appeal to an Appeals Panel by any Club or affected person, the Committee shall have power to discipline any Club for breach of any of these Game Regulations. Ignorance of these Game Regulations will not be deemed an excuse in the event of breach.
- 10.1.2 The Committee shall have the right to delegate disciplinary powers (other than the power to expel or suspend from membership of the League Competition) for any breach of these Game Regulations to an Organising Committee (which can in turn delegate all or part of its powers to a person acting as a League Secretary or to a sub-committee) subject to the rights of appeal as hereinafter provided.

10.2 Breach of these Regulations or Complaint or Dispute

- 10.2.1 The Committee shall have discretion and may vary the procedure specified in Game Regulation 10.2 where it considers this to be in the interests of an RFU Competition generally or Rugby Union Football.
- 10.2.2 Matters concerning promotion, relegation and Level Transfers must be handled expeditiously at the end of the Season so that Clubs have adequate and proper time to make arrangements for the following season. Accordingly save only as to a complaint about a Level Transfer no complaint can be made under Game Regulations 10.2.3 and/or 10.2.4 below more than 14 days after the end of the final League Match of the Season regardless as

to whether the facts giving rise to the complaint were known or not.

Breach notified by Committee

10.2.3 Any alleged breach of any of these Game Regulations by a Club or a player shall be notified to that Club or player by or on behalf of the Committee or League Secretary within 48 hours of knowledge of the occurrence or facts giving rise to the allegation and thereafter confirmed in writing within 96 hours of knowledge of the occurrence. The Club or player shall have seven days from receipt of notification to respond. The Committee or League Secretary shall give a ruling (which may include a sanction as permitted under these Game Regulations) within a further seven days.

Breach notified by Third Party

10.2.4 Any alleged breach of these Game Regulations (other than that referred to in Game Regulation 10.2.3 above) or other complaint or dispute under these Game Regulations shall be referred to the 'the recipient' who in the case of any RFU Cup Competition shall be the Tournaments and Competitions Director and in the case of other RFU competitions shall be in the case of the NCA its secretary (or other person notified by it) and in other lower levels the secretary of the League concerned; by telephone within 48 hours of knowledge of the occurrence giving rise to the complaint and thereafter submitted in writing within a further 48 hours. The complainant shall also notify any club or other party complained of in writing (by post, fax or electronic mail) within five working days of knowledge of the occurrence giving rise to the complaint. The recipient upon receipt of the written complaint shall require the other party to the complaint (if applicable) to answer the complaint within seven days of the receipt of the written complaint and the recipient shall give a ruling (which may if the recipient deems it appropriate include a sanction as permitted under these Game Regulations) within a further seven days.

Review by Organising Committee

10.2.5 If the Club or player (in respect of 10.2.3 above), or either party to the complaint or dispute or any other person or Club (in respect of 10.2.4 above) is dissatisfied with any ruling made under Game Regulations 10.2.3 or 10.2.4 above there shall be a right to request a review of the decision.

- (a) In League Competitions, and all rounds prior to the Semi-Finals of the Intermediate Cup, Senior Vase and Junior Vase a right to request a review shall lie from the League Secretary or Cup administrator to the Organising Committee;
- (b) In the Senior Cup, the British & Irish Cup, a Champions Cup and the Semi-Finals and Final of the Intermediate Cup, Senior Vase and Junior Vase a right to request a review shall lie from Tournaments & Competitions Director to the Competitions Sub-Committee (or its delegate).

10.2.6 A right to a review shall only apply provided (i) notice in writing specifying the grounds of appeal is given to the Committee (or such other person as the Committee may have stipulated) within seven days (or 48 hours for Cup Competitions) of receipt of the decision referred to in 10.2.3 or 10.2.4 above and (ii) the notice is accompanied by such payment as is stipulated by the Committee (or such other person as the Committee may have stipulated). The fee will be refunded if the appeal is successful.

10.2.7 If the Club or player (in respect of 10.2.3 above) or either the complaining Club, or the other party to the complaint or dispute, or the Club or player against whom the complaint is made (in respect of 10.2.4 above), requires an oral hearing, it must be requested in writing at the

time the application under Game Regulation 10.2.5 is made (or in the case of the other party within 5 days of being made aware of the application under Game Regulation 10.2.4 being made). The Committee shall, within five days of receiving notice of such request, appoint a time, date and place for the hearing of such review. The person who has given a ruling shall not be entitled to take any part in the review of a ruling he has given other than to explain the reasons for his ruling.

10.2.8 Where a complaint is heard before the Committee, it shall be the obligation of the complainant to establish that on the balance of probabilities the complainant has an interest in the matter and the complaint is justified. If the Committee considers that the complaint is not justified it may dismiss it without hearing the representations of the Club or person against whom the complaint is made. The Committee cannot find a complaint proved without giving consideration to the evidence submitted by the person or Club against whom the complaint is made or where an oral hearing has been requested under Game Regulation 10.2.6 an opportunity to make representations or call relevant evidence.

10.2.9 The outcome of any complaint must be given in writing to the complainant within 35 days of receipt of the written complaint (together with the appropriate cheque) by the Committee.

RFU Appeals

10.2.10 Any party having an interest aggrieved at the decision of the Committee or Organising Committee under Game Regulation 10.2.5 above may, within fourteen days from the date of the letter informing it of the decision, appeal or request a further review of the decision in writing to the Disciplinary Manager of the RFU restating the grounds on which the original appeal or complaint was made. Any such appeal must be accompanied by such payment as is specified by the RFU and published by the RFU in its disciplinary regulations which is refundable in the event the appeal is upheld unless the Appeals Panel decides otherwise.

10.3 Sanctions

10.3.1 Where the Committee finds there has been a breach of a Game Regulation, it may impose such sanction as it deems appropriate. Sanctions available to the Committee may include: loss of match or Competition points; transfer of Competition points; review of result; deduction of Competition points to be effective at the commencement of the following Season; deletion of Club's results from its League table; placing a Club at the bottom of its League; relegation of a Club by one or more Leagues (or Levels); a financial sanction, including monetary fine or compensation award payable to any third party, sponsor or Club; expelling or suspending any Club from membership of a Competition; or any such other penalty as the Committee deems appropriate in accordance with the Sanctions Guidelines.

10.3.2 Where the Committee imposes a financial sanction on a Club or a player in respect of a breach of a Game Regulation:

- (a) any or each of the financial sanctions imposed under these Regulations must be paid within 14 days of notification (subject to any appeal);
- (b) where payment of a financial sanction is not made in accordance with Game Regulation 10.3.2(a) above, the Committee may impose a further sanction, which may include the deduction of league points or Cup sanctions (subject to any appeal) as permitted in these Game Regulations. This further sanction is in addition to the fine which shall remain payable; and
- (c) where any financial sanction remains outstanding at the end of the Season, the

Committee may make a recommendation to the Committee that the Club or a player be suspended from the Competition in the following Season and/or be deducted points in respect of the following Season.

10.3.3 Where there is a second or subsequent breach of a Game Regulation, the Committee shall have the power to impose an additional sanction and/or take this into account when determining the appropriate sanction for the second or subsequent breach.

10.4 Dispute Resolution

10.4.1 In the event of a dispute (including as to the amount of gate receipts to be paid) between any Constituent Body, County or Club with another Constituent Body, County or Club, the Committee may direct both Constituent Bodies, Counties or Clubs to submit to mediation or arbitration.

10.4.2 If the Constituent Bodies, Counties or Clubs are directed to arbitrate, both Constituent Bodies, Counties or Clubs shall comply with any procedures or directions given by the arbitrator selected by the Committee; the decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on both Constituent Bodies, Counties or Clubs.

SECTION B – GAME REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO RFU COMPETITIONS

All matches played in RFU Competitions must comply with Sections A and B.

REGULATION 11 – DESCRIPTION OF RFU COMPETITIONS

11.1 Name of RFU Competition

League

11.1.1 The League Competition overall shall be called ‘The English Clubs Rugby Union Championship’. All League Matches shall be played in accordance with these Game Regulations, to be read in accordance with Appendices 1 and 2.

Cup

11.1.2 The Cup Competitions shall be called:

- (a) Senior Cup - ‘The Senior Cup’, which shall be played in accordance with these Game Regulations and the regulations applicable thereto set out or referred to in Appendix 3;
- (b) British & Irish Cup - ‘The British & Irish Cup’, which shall be between the Clubs qualifying in accordance with Appendix 3. All matches shall be played in accordance with these Game Regulations and the regulations applicable thereto set out in Appendix 3;
- (c) Champions Cup – ‘The Champions Cup’, which shall be between the Clubs qualifying in accordance with Appendix 4. All matches shall be played in accordance with these Game Regulations and the regulations applicable thereto set out in Appendix 4;
- (d) Intermediate Cup - ‘The Intermediate Clubs Knockout Competition’, which shall be between those eligible Clubs which are invited and agree to play in it. All matches shall be played in accordance with these Game Regulations and the regulations applicable thereto set out in

Appendix 4;

- (e) Senior Vase - 'The Senior Vase', which shall be between those Clubs which do not take part in the Intermediate Cup and are invited and agree to play in it. All matches shall be played in accordance with these Game Regulations and the regulations applicable thereto set out in Appendix 4;
- (f) Junior Vase - 'The Junior Vase', which shall be between those Clubs which do not take part in the National Trophy or Intermediate Cup or Senior Vase and are invited and agree to play in it. All matches shall be played in accordance with these Game Regulations and the regulations applicable thereto set out in Appendix 4.

County

11.1.3 All County Championship Competitions shall be played in accordance with these Game Regulations and the regulations set out in Appendix 5.

U20 Competition

11.1.4 The U20 Competition shall be called the 'National Under 20 Championship', which shall be between the 31 Constituent Bodies who are invited and agree to play in it comprising the four Regions as follows:

- (a) NORTH: Cheshire, Cumbria, Durham, Lancashire, Northumberland and Yorkshire;
- (b) MIDLANDS: East Midlands, North Midlands, Leicestershire, Notts Lincs & Derby, Oxford University, Cambridge University, Staffordshire and Warwickshire;
- (c) LONDON & SOUTH-EAST: Army, Eastern Counties, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Middlesex, Surrey and Sussex; and
- (d) SOUTH & SOUTH-WEST: Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset & Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Somerset.

The U20 Competition shall be played in accordance with these Game Regulations and the regulations set out in Appendix 6.

11.2 RFU Consent to Different Name of Competition

11.2.1 The RFU may from time to time decide to change the name of a Competition, which may include the names of sponsors as the RFU shall determine.

11.2.2 Alternatively, with the prior written consent of the RFU, a Competition (or certain levels or leagues or leagues in certain geographic areas) may carry separate names or titles which may include the names of sponsors.

REGULATION 12 – ELIGIBILITY – CLUBS AND CONSTITUENT BODIES

12.1 Criteria for Eligibility

League

12.1.1 Such Competitions shall be open to:

- (a) any Club in membership with the RFU; or
- (b) a Club, which is not a member of the RFU, subject to the requirement that it must be able to demonstrate for the Season that it will be (and in the season previous it was) capable of satisfying the criteria for membership of the RFU. In addition the Club must agree to be bound by the RFU Disciplinary Regulations and procure that its players recognise and agree to be bound by the RFU Disciplinary Regulations. A Club not a member of the RFU must in the opinion of the Committee have demonstrated in the previous season that it is capable of fulfilling a League programme but was not able to satisfy criteria for membership of the RFU for the previous two years; or
- (c) a Club permitted to play in a league by the RFU on a temporary basis.

12.1.2 In the Season any Club applying to join the League Competition(s) must be placed in the bottom League in its Division subject to the following two exceptions:

- (a) Where an application made for a variation of this Game Regulation is made under Game Regulation 2.4 with the support of not only the Constituent Bodies concerned but also the Clubs in the League concerned (and the consent of the Clubs in the Leagues below) that a Club joins at a higher level is approved by the Committee;
- (b) Where there has been a bona fide corporate restructure of a Club in compliance with RFU regulations in connection therewith and the consent of the Committee (which it may in its absolute discretion withhold) has been granted in which case that restructured Club may be entitled to retain the League position of the Club prior to its restructure subject to RFU approval.

12.1.3 No application for entry to the League will be accepted if it is made later than 1st April preceding the Season. The approval to such entry of the Committee and of the appropriate Divisional Organising Committee must be obtained.

Cup

12.1.4 Such Competitions shall be open as follows:

- (a) Senior Cup - in accordance with Appendix 3;
- (b) British & Irish Cup – in accordance with Appendix 3
- (c) Champions Cup - the clubs at Levels 4, 5 and 6 finishing top of their respective league in accordance with Appendix 2(b) at the end of the Season. There shall be three competitions; one for clubs at Level 4, one for clubs at Level 5 and one for clubs at Level 6.
- (d) Intermediate Cup - the Clubs at level 7 provided that they have complied with such criteria and/or restrictions as the Club's Constituent Body or the Committee wishes to impose and which having been invited to participate have accepted the invitation by the due date specified;
- (e) Senior Vase – the Clubs at Level 8 provided that they have complied with such criteria as the Club's Constituent Body or the Committee wishes to impose and which having been invited to participate have accepted the invitation by the due date specified thereon.

- (f) Junior Vase - all Clubs at Levels 9 & below which have complied with such criteria as the Club's Constituent Body or the Committee wishes to impose and which having been invited to participate have accepted the invitation by the due date specified thereon.

County Competitions

12.1.5 The Counties shall compete in the County Championship Competitions as set out in Appendix 5.

12.2 Conditions on Membership or Participation

12.2.1 The Committee shall have the power at any time prior to or during the Season to impose conditions upon the membership or continued participation of any Club or Constituent Body in any RFU Competition. Any Club or Constituent Body failing to comply with such conditions shall not be entitled to enter the RFU Competition or to continue to participate in it.

12.2.2 In respect of Cup Competitions, the Committee:

- (a) in its discretion may disregard a sanction of either deduction of League points or relegation for the sole purpose of assessment by the Committee as to whether or not that Club should be entitled to enter any RFU Cup Competition;
- (b) may determine that any Club which failed to honour a fixture in any RFU Cup Competition in the previous Season (or which withdrew from such competition subsequent to 1st August 2009 having previously agreed to take part) or any other Club which in its opinion should not be permitted to take part in the Competition shall not be eligible to participate in any RFU Cup Competition.

12.3 Suspended Clubs

No Club which has been suspended from playing shall play and no Club or Constituent Body shall knowingly play in any match against any suspended or expelled Club or Constituent Body, or in any fixture with any Club or Constituent Body which has been formed by members of a Club or Constituent Body suspended or expelled by the RFU.

REGULATION 13 – ELIGIBILITY – PLAYERS

13.1 Registration

13.1.1 A Club may only play or select as a replacement or substitute players who hold Effective Registration for that Club in accordance with the Player Registration Regulations. The only conclusive evidence of Effective Registration is the Computerised Listing held by the RFU as at the Kick Off time of the match in which such players play. Each Club is responsible for ensuring its strict compliance with this Game Regulation and must take all reasonable steps to ensure compliance.

13.1.2 The only exception to Game Regulation 13.1.1 above applies to League Matches at level 9 and below only, and is that two unregistered players may be selected as players or replacements without penalty provided they are eligible for registration and do not play on a second or subsequent occasion until correct papers are lodged with the Registrar or in the case of online Registration the procedural obligations have been fulfilled; and such players are not Effectively Registered with another Club and are identified on the match card as not having Effective Registration and with their Date of Birth.

13.1.3 If a Club wishes to play or select a player who does not hold Effective Registration for that Club, it must take all reasonable steps to comply with Game Regulation 13.1.2. In the event of breach, the Committee may take into account the following:

- (a) whether diligent enquiry has been made by the Club to ascertain that the player is not registered with another Club;
- (b) whether the Club made enquiries with its League Secretary or simply requested a player to confirm his status;
- (c) in the event of a mistake, whether that mistake is acceptable in the opinion of the Committee.

13.2 Suspended Players

No Club or Constituent Body shall knowingly play in any match players who have been suspended or expelled by the RFU.

13.3 Foreign Players

At levels 4 and above, a Club may not play or select as a replacement or substitute more than two Foreign Players in any match.

13.4 Loan Players

A Club may not play or select as a replacement or substitute more than three Loan Players in any match.

13.5 England Academy Players

There is no limit to the number of England Academy Players that a Club at level three and below may play or select as a replacement or substitute in any match.

13.6 Players in Representative Matches

13.6.1 England

Where a Representative Match involving England's Senior Team, Saxons, Under 20, Sevens, Students or Counties XV's or any other team picked by nationally appointed selectors to represent England, an Inter Service Championship match at senior level or the County Championship Quarter-Finals, Semi Finals or Final is played on a date specified for a League Match, any Club (other than a Premiership or Championship club) which is affected by three or more players or replacements (other than England Academy Players) taking part in such Representative Match may require a League Match to be rearranged for a later date. The dates for playing such rearranged League Matches will be fixed by the appropriate Committee for the League concerned.

13.6.2 Other National Unions

Where a Representative Match involving any Senior National Union other Representative Team(s) or Second Senior Representative Team(s) of any National Union other than England is played on a date fixed for a League Match any Club which is affected by five or more players or replacements taking part in such Representative Match may require the League Match to be rearranged for a later date. The appropriate Committee will fix such rearranged League Match for the League concerned.

13.7 Cup-tied players

13.7.1 A Club may not be represented in any match in the Senior Cup, British & Irish Cup, Intermediate Cup, Senior Vase, & Junior Vase by any person who has played or been

selected as a replacement for another Club in the same Cup Competition in the current Season.

- 13.7.2 A Club may not be represented in any match in the Senior Cup, British & Irish Cup, Intermediate Cup, Senior Vase, & Junior Vase by any person who has played or been selected as a replacement for another Club in a Cup Competition ranking above it in the current Season unless such a person is an England Academy Player who for the avoidance of doubt will be permitted to play notwithstanding the provisions of this regulation 13.7.2.

Note: Cup Competition ranking: - Senior Cup (Highest Ranking), British & Irish Cup, Intermediate Cup, Senior Vase and Junior Vase.(Lowest Ranking)

- 13.7.3. A Constituent Body may not be represented in the County Competitions or an U20 Competition by any person who has played or been selected as a replacement for another Constituent Body in the County Competitions or an U20 Competition in the current season.

Note: In order to check if a player is cup-tied, please contact the Tournaments & Competitions Department by telephone (0870 143 2448) not less than 72 hours before the match.

13.8 Young players

Any Club playing a player below the age of eighteen in the adult game must adhere to the RFU's Policy and Procedures for the Welfare of Young People in Rugby Union and Schools & Youth Regulations 2.2 and 2.3.

REGULATION 14 – FINANCE

14.1 Funding

- 14.1.1 The Committee shall notify the relevant Clubs of its decision regarding funding and distribute monies in its absolute discretion as it considers appropriate for the benefit of the Clubs in each RFU Competition.

- 14.1.2 In respect of each RFU Competition, an annual fee may be payable by each participating Club in order to cover the administrative operating expenses. This fee will be determined annually by the Committee and shall be due and payable not later than 1 September in each year or on such other date as the Committee may determine from time to time.

- 14.1.3 The Committee may establish a reserve fund for such purpose(s) as it may from time to time determine.

- 14.1.4 Clubs failing to register claims for monies allocated to them by the date notified to them will not be eligible for payment of sponsorship or other monies.

14.2 Sponsorship, financial assistance or gifts

Any proposal involving an offer of sponsorship, financial assistance or gift for a RFU Competition or combination of RFU Competitions must be submitted to the RFU for approval which it will not refuse or delay unless such offer or the terms thereof would cause the RFU to be in breach of any other contract or commitment it may have to a third party.

14.3 Gate receipts

League

14.3.1 Gross Gate receipts shall be distributed as follows:

- (a) in League Matches - to the home Club; and
- (b) in Play-Off Matches - the home Club and the away Club shall share (as to 40% for the away team and as to 60% for the home team) the Gross Gate Receipt, which shall also include car park and programme receipts.

Cup

14.3.2 In each match in the Quarter-finals and Semi-Finals of the Champions Cup the participating Clubs shall share the Gross Gate Receipts as follows: 50% for the home Club and 50% for the away Club. Unless the Clubs agree otherwise 25% of the away Club's share shall be paid on the day of the match.

14.3.3 In each semi-final of the Intermediate Cup, Senior Vase and Junior Vase (unless the match is played on a ground specified by the Committee pursuant to Appendix 4), the Clubs will share the Gross Gate Receipts equally (including car park receipts and programmes sales less the cost of printing). Payment must be made to the away Club as to 20% of the estimated Gross Gate Receipts on the day of the match and the balance of the monies owing within 21 days of the match together with a clear statement showing how such payment is calculated.

14.3.4 The RFU shall retain the gate receipt from the final of all Cup Competitions.

County

14.3.5 In all matches other than the Final, Gross Gate Receipts (which shall be the total of all monies received from admissions, car parking and programme sales) to a ceiling of £5,000.00 shall be shared, to help offset the cost of the away team, 70% for the home County and 30% for the away County. Any Gross Gate Receipts in excess shall belong to the home County.

U20

14.3.6 In all matches other than the Final, the home Constituent Body shall be entitled to the Gross Gate Receipts, which shall include all car park and programme receipts.

14.4 Match Expenses

14.4.1 The home Constituent Body, County or Club shall be responsible for all match expenses including (but not limited to):

- (a) the costs of Match Officials (unless the RFU or a Federation or a local Referees Society requires otherwise);
- (b) the proper promotion of the match; and
- (c) the cost of providing a reasonable meal and other refreshments for the away Club's players, replacements and officials (not less than 26 in all) and the four Match Officials.

14.4.2 The away Constituent Body, County or Club shall be responsible for its own travelling and

other expenses. It shall also be responsible for the costs of a reasonable meal and other refreshments where the number of its players, replacements and officials exceeds 26 as set out at Game Regulation 14.4.1(c) above.

14.4.3 In Cup Competitions, the Committee may in its sole discretion make allocations from the reserve fund in order to assist Clubs in paying their travelling and other related expenses as follows:

- (a) in the semi finals and the final of the Champions Cups;
- (b) in the semi finals and the final of the Intermediate Cup;
- (c) in the semi finals and the final of the Senior Vase; and
- (d) in the semi finals and the final of the Junior Vase.

(Such allocation shall be made at least seven days before the date of such match and shall be paid as soon as practicable thereafter.)

14.5 Accounts (Cup Competitions only)

14.5.1 All match accounts from Cup Competitions are subject to the scrutiny of the Committee.

14.5.2 All match accounts in respect of matches played in the fourth and subsequent rounds of Cup Competitions must be forwarded by the home Club, together with written confirmation that 40% (50% for Champions Cup Matches) of the gross gate has been paid by the home Club to the away Club under sub-paragraphs 16.5.2 and 16.2.5 (inclusive) of this Game Regulation, to reach the Tournaments & Competitions Director of the RFU (or such other person as the Committee may decide) at Twickenham within 14 days of the match.

REGULATION 15 – TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

15.1 Legal Obligations

Each Club in consideration of the funding received by it from the RFU or any funding from a sponsor(s) whether or not received direct from the sponsor(s) or through the RFU or any third party for participating in any RFU Competition agrees that by commencing its programme of matches in any RFU Competition it has entered into a legally binding obligation with the RFU and as a separate covenant with each other Club in the RFU Competition and with any sponsor of the RFU Competition in which the Club plays:

- (i) to comply in every particular with these Game Regulations;
- (ii) to permit access to its premises during a match to any person authorised by the Committee or Organising Committee (with or without notice) to check compliance with all or any of these Game Regulations;
- (iii) to maintain at all times during the Season a sufficient number of Effectively Registered fit and available players to ensure the ability of the Club to fulfil its programme of matches on the dates appointed by the Committee or any rearrangement thereof;
- (iv) to comply at all times with each and every obligation and requirement entered into by the RFU (or the Committee as the case may be) with third parties including but not

limited to the terms and conditions of any sponsorship or other agreement provided that the particulars of any such obligations and requirements have been and prior to the commencement of its first match in the RFU Competition notified to the participating Club; and

- (v) to comply and to ensure and procure that its members and players are aware of agree to and agree to be bound by the RFU's disciplinary policies and their enforcement by the RFU in accordance with its published procedures.

15.2 Potential Claims for Damages

Each Club in consideration of the funding received by it for participating in any RFU Competition or in consideration of the RFU providing at no cost to the Club insurance in terms of the RFU approved policy by commencing its programme of matches in any RFU Competition agrees it has entered into a legally binding contractual obligation any breach of which may give rise to a claim for damages or compensation with each and every other Club in the RFU Competition and the RFU:

- (i) to play all and each of its fixtures on the dates fixed pursuant to these Game Regulations;
- (ii) to comply at all times with every applicable Game Regulation.

15.3 Restrictions on Claims

Each Club in consideration of the funding received by it for participating in the RFU Competition or in consideration of the RFU providing at no cost to the Club insurance in terms of the RFU approved policy by commencing its programme of matches agrees it has entered into a legally binding obligation with the RFU, any sponsor of the RFU Competition and as a separate covenant with each other Club in the RFU Competition, Match Official involved in any match in the RFU Competition or cancellation or abandonment thereof that it will not hold liable or make any claim against any of the foregoing or the RFU or the Committee:

- (i) for any loss cost charge compensation or expense arising out of or in connection with any kind of injury or illness suffered by any player, spectator or other person (in so far as is permitted by law);
- (ii) for any damage to property of any kind;
- (iii) for any other loss cost charge expense or damages be it economic financial consequential or for loss of profit expense incurred or otherwise and whether directly or consequential; and
- (iv) for any loss of any description howsoever arising or alleged to arise from or in relation to the result of any match in the RFU Competition arising out of or due to any decision or action that such official may take (or failed to have taken) under the Laws of the Game, these Game Regulations or any other rules or regulations published in the Handbook or which have been properly introduced by the RFU or in respect of any opinion expressed under Game Regulation 9.4 above or in respect of the normal procedures to hold play control, cancel or abandon a match.

REGULATION 16 – FIXTURES AND MATCH MANAGEMENT

16.1 Matches

16.1.1 Dates

All matches in any RFU Competition other than the Guinness Premiership and the Championship must be played on Saturday unless some other date is specified by the Committee or agreed by the Clubs and also the Committee.

16.1.2 Times

- (a) In the absence of an alternative requirement from the Committee appropriate to the RFU Competition concerned, a match will start at the home Club's usual kick-off time which shall be between:
 - (i) 1400 and 1500 on weekends and public holidays; and
 - (ii) 1900 and 2000 on weekdays.
- (b) The two Clubs concerned may agree an earlier or later kick-off time, however, any such agreement must be notified to the Committee no later than three days prior to the date of the match.
- (c) In any event, the Committee retains the power to specify any kick-off time. It may, if it wishes, permit written representations from the two Clubs concerned in this regard.

16.1.3 Delays

Any delay from the specified or agreed kick-off time may be reported by the non-offending Club or the Referee to the Committee of the Competition concerned and may lead to sanctions being imposed.

16.1.4 Toss

The toss for and the decision as to who will kick-off or will choose ends and which end each team will have in the first half of the match must have been taken no later than 15 minutes before kick-off.

16.1.5 Home & Away

All League Matches shall be played on a home and away basis unless agreed otherwise by the Committee.

Administrative Note: Where a Club is forbidden from playing on its home ground for disciplinary reasons the match must still take place on the scheduled date and such other pitch as the Club may use shall for the purposes of this Game Regulation be deemed to be the Club's home ground.

16.2 Fixture Lists

Fixture lists in respect of League Competitions shall be prepared by the Committee. A copy shall be sent to the RFU by 15th June in each year. Such fixtures shall be deemed to have been approved by the RFU (which has the right to object to such fixtures) unless notice to the contrary is given within seven days of the receipt by the RFU or such longer period of time where circumstances certified by the RFU as being exceptional occur which renders it impossible to give such notice within the specified time and/or necessitates a change subsequent to approval or deemed approval.

16.3 Teams

Every Club must in all matches in any League Competition play its strongest possible first XV (save where a match involves its second or lower XV at Level 8 or below unless agreed otherwise by the Committee).

16.4 Drawn Matches (Cup Competitions, County Championship and National Under 20 Championship only)

16.4.1 All knock out matches (except Semi-Finals (where played at neutral venues) and Finals)

- (a) In all knock out matches if after 40 minutes of play each way the scores are level, there shall be a five-minute break. After this break, the teams will change ends and there shall be a period of extra time between the teams of 10 minutes each way, with a one-minute interval.
- (b) If the scores are then still equal, the team that has scored most tries shall go forward into the next round.
- (c) If this does not produce a result, the team that has scored the most goals from tries goes forward into the next round.
- (d) If the scores remain equal, in all matches save for the Semi-Finals (where played at neutral venues) and Final, the away team shall go forward into the next round.

16.4.2 Semi-Finals (where played at neutral venues) and Finals

- (a) In the Semi Finals (where played at neutral venues) and any Final where the Organising Committee agrees, there shall be after a five minute break extra time between the same teams of 10 minutes each way with a one minute half time. If the scores are still level, the team that has scored the most tries shall be the winner. If this does not produce a result, the team that has scored the most goals from tries shall be the winner.
- (b) In the Finals, if after 40 minutes play each way the scores are level, the team that has scored the most tries shall be the winner. If this does not produce a result, the team that has scored most goals from tries shall be the winner.
- (c) If no result is achieved under paragraphs (a) or (b) above, the result shall be decided as follows:
 - (i) Each team shall nominate one player from its number on the field of play at the final whistle to participate on its behalf in a place kicking competition;
 - (ii) Starting with the kicker from the team that kicked-off the match, each kicker in turn shall attempt a place kick from the pre-determined positions indicated in paragraph (iv) below until such time as, after an equal number of attempts, one kicker has kicked more goals than the other;
 - (iii) These attempts will be made towards the goal posts nearest the players' entrance tunnel to the pitch or in the event of both sets of goal posts being of equal distance from the players entrance tunnel the goal posts to the left of the said tunnel when emerging from it;

- (iv) The attempts will be taken from the following positions in turn, repeating the sequence until a winner is decided:

the centre of the 22-metre line

the intersection of 22-metre and 15-metre lines to left of posts facing

the intersection of 22-metre and 5-metre lines to left of posts facing

the intersection of 22-metre and 15-metre lines to right of posts facing

the intersection of 22-metre and 5-metre lines to right of posts facing.

REGULATION 17 – GROUNDS

17.1 Pitch

17.1.1 It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure the availability of a pitch and to correctly and clearly mark its pitch.

17.1.2 Where an Artificial Pitch is to be used the Club where the pitch is situated must:

- (a) comply with IRB Regulation 22 and ensure that permission has been obtained from the RFU and that such permission has not expired or been invalidated.
- (b) If it proposes to use the Artificial Pitch in any match in an RFU Competition inform the RFU in writing at least 30 days before the start of the season or if during the season at least 30 days (or such shorter period as the RFU may agree in an emergency) prior to such Artificial Pitch being used for a match in any RFU Competition.

17.2 Grounds

Barrier from Field of Play

17.2.1 Each home Club playing a match in an RFU Competition must make provision:

- (i) to ensure that (with the exception of Permitted Personnel as defined in 17.2.4 below) all other persons are kept at a reasonable distance from the playing area by permanent or temporary barriers and
- (ii) for two Technical Areas (see page 149 for the Definition) one for each team in a match to which Permitted Personnel (when not undertaking their duties) are to be restricted during the match other than for the period of half-time.

17.2.2 At Level 5 and below and only where the Club Committee is satisfied it is impractical or unnecessary for permanent or temporary pitchside barriers or Technical Areas to be in place each Club in a match must (unless the referee agrees otherwise) ensure that:

- (i) with the exception of Permitted Personnel, all other persons remain at a reasonable distance from the playing area, and;
- (ii) Permitted Personnel (when not undertaking their duties) remain on the side of the pitch designated by the home Club within an area bounded by the centre and ten metre line on the pitch and two metres from the side line of the pitch at the end of the pitch in which it's team plays the first half of the match.

17.2.3 Where there are permanent dugouts or shelters team replacements and coaching staffs must confine themselves to them or remain outside the pitchside barriers, or if none, the playing

enclosure (as defined by the Referee) other than when a player is about to replace a player on the pitch, when a player is temporarily suspended or for the periods of half-time.

Permitted Personnel

17.2.4 No more than four water carriers per team (including medical staff and replacement players) are permitted within the pitch side or perimeter fencing or other barrier. Water carriers may only be permitted onto the playing area for the purposes of taking water to the players at such times as shall be approved by the Referee (on any other occasion players must come to the touchline to get water).

17.2.5 Any player temporarily suspended when playing must remain in the 'Technical Area' or leave the playing enclosure and be clearly and readily identifiable to the Fourth Official. Any player temporarily suspended at Level 5 and below should remain in the 'Technical Area' (if provided) or remain between the posts in the in goal area which his team is attacking or in such other place as the referee may agree.

17.2.6 Any player sent off must leave the playing enclosure.

Floodlights

17.2.8 Any Club with the facility of and which plays matches under floodlights at any time of the Season is required to provide lights of sufficient lux value so as to ensure the playing of the match is safe. Illumination levels should be checked by a suitably qualified electrical engineer and recorded against the levels of light required for the standard of play and shall be not less than 200 lux for competitive matches and 100 lux for training. Clubs who use floodlights for matches in a RFU Competition are required to have them turned on at the start of the match.

REGULATION 18 – UNPLAYED MATCHES

18.1 Postponed Matches

Champions Cup and League Matches at Levels 2-3 (inclusive)

18.1.1 Where a home Club wishes (or considers that it may be appropriate) to cancel or postpone a match at Level 4 or above because of Pitch or Weather Conditions:

- (a) The home Club must contact the RFU Referee Department as early as possible and in any event before 1700 on the day preceding the match to request a pitch inspection.
- (b) The home Club must also inform the away Club and the Committee that the match is in doubt due to the pitch being unplayable as a result of poor Weather Conditions (or the forecast of poor Weather Conditions) as soon as reasonably practicable.
- (c) A suitably accredited RFU Referee (not a person, whether a Referee or not, who regularly acts as a Club's Fourth Official or who is a member of the home Club) must confirm the postponement after an inspection of the match pitch. Such a pitch inspection by an independent Referee must take place before the time the away Club intend to travel to fulfil the fixture.
- (d) If the inspecting Referee decides the pitch unplayable and/or likely to be unplayable before 1700 on the day preceding the match, the home Club must immediately inform the RFU Tournaments & Competitions Department, the Organising Committee (or its delegate) and the Match Officials as well as the away Club. If the Referee decides the pitch is unplayable

after 1700 on the day preceding the match, the home Club must immediately notify the away Club, the Committee and the Match Officials. Alternatively, if the inspecting Referee deems the pitch playable and/or likely to be playable the home Club must act on that judgement and notify the away Club accordingly.

- (e) When a late decision (i.e. within 3 hours of kick-off) as to the fitness of the pitch for playing a match is necessary, the decision shall be made by the captains of the teams involved. If the captains are not able to agree, the decision as to the fitness of the pitch should be made by the appointed Referee. If the match is postponed the home Club must notify the Committee within 48 hours of the decision to postpone. If the Referee declines or fails to make a decision, and the captains disagree about the fitness of the pitch, the match shall be immediately postponed and the circumstances notified to the Committee within 48 hours of the decision to postpone.

Intermediate Cup, Senior Vase, Junior Vase and League Matches at Levels 5 and below

18.1.2 Where a home Club in Levels 5 and below, is concerned on the day (or days) before a Match that it might have to cancel or postpone a match because of Pitch or Weather Conditions:

- (a) the home Club should as soon as it is aware of the position advise the other Club and the League Secretary (or relevant Organising Committee in the case of Cup Competitions) of its concerns and keep them advised of the position. All steps possible should be taken to prevent unnecessary travel;
- (b) if a Club wishes to cancel the match on a date prior to the date of the Match for Pitch or Weather Conditions, it should try to obtain an opinion of a member of the Club's Local Referees' Society as to whether the match is likely to be played or cancelled. A Match should not be cancelled because of Pitch or Weather Conditions without an inspection of the pitch by a referee or the agreement of the League Secretary (or relevant Organising Committee in the case of Cup Competitions).
- (c) A Club whose home ground is unfit to play should seek an alternative venue. In the event of Clubs failing to agree on the suitability of the alternative venue, a ruling can be made by the Committee. During the first part of the season, Clubs playing in home and away Leagues will be expected in the first instance to exchange the venue to the one originally scheduled for the second half of the Season.

18.2 Abandoned Matches

18.2.1 Weather Conditions (which shall be deemed to include bad light in the sole opinion of the referee)

Less than 60 Minutes Played

- (a) If Weather Conditions prevent a match being played or result in a Match being abandoned with less than sixty minutes having been played, then the match will be replayed in accordance with Game Regulation 18.5 unless the Committee exceptionally and in its absolute discretion agrees / specifies otherwise.

60 or more Minutes Played

- (b) 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.

18.2.2 Other Reasons

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 of that match shall be reviewed and determined by the Organising Committee (or its delegate). The Organising Committee (or its delegate) may order the match to be replayed in accordance with Game Regulation 18.5 and/or impose such other sanction as it deems appropriate.

18.3 Notification

18.3.1 When a match is abandoned, the home Club must notify the Organising Committee (or its delegate) of the reason for non-playing or non-completion of the match as soon as possible but in any event within 24 hours of the event.

18.3.2 A Match Result Card (which has been duly signed by the Referee) must also be submitted in accordance with Game Regulation 20 below which, if appropriate, states the number of minutes played, the score, and the reason for the abandonment.

18.4 Fixtures involving Suspended Clubs

Any Club which is suspended from playing Rugby Union Football for disciplinary reasons will not be permitted to re-arrange any fixtures falling to be played within the period of the suspension. The effects thereof on the non-offending Clubs in the League concerned shall be dealt with by the Organising Committee of the League concerned under Game Regulation 18.6 below.

18.5 Re-scheduling or Re-arranging Matches

18.5.1 A League Match shall be replayed on the Next Available Weekend unless some other date is specified by the Committee.

18.5.2 A Cup match shall be replayed prior to the next round on a date specified by the Organising Committee.

18.5.3 League Matches (including rearranged matches) take precedence over all other matches other than RFU Cup Competitions, and Representative Matches (where Game Regulation 3 applies).

18.6 Clubs unable to fulfil fixtures (League Competitions only)

18.6.1 A Club must fulfil its matches in League Competitions in compliance with these Game Regulations.

18.6.2 If the Committee considers that a Club has unjustifiably failed to fulfil its obligations, (which shall be deemed to include a Club that has been suspended for disciplinary or any other reason) it may deduct Competition points from that Club and/or order the match to be replayed (provided it has regard to promotion and relegation issues in any relevant League, including the effect on other clubs, and to the commitments of the Clubs concerned). For the avoidance of doubt, lack of players or insufficient front row players with Effective Registration whether through injury, illness or because of work or other commitments shall not be deemed to be a justifiable reason for not playing or seeking a postponement of a League Match.

18.6.3 At Level 8 & below, where the Committee has been advised by a Club that it is unable to

fulfil a League fixture because it does not have at its disposal sufficient players having Effective Registration (or sufficient players capable of playing in the front row) and the Committee is satisfied with the explanation, the Committee may prior to the non-playing of the League Match providing (i) the fixture with the opposition Club is honoured (albeit with unregistered or borrowed players) on the scheduled date or the Club was prepared to honour the fixture on the scheduled date, (ii) its non playing is not the fault of the Club with insufficient Effectively Registered players, and (iii) it takes account of the effect on other Clubs in the same League in its absolute discretion agree that:

- (a) the League Match need not be replayed at a future date;
- (b) the result of the unplayed League Match will be a 0-0 win for the non-offending Club when the score will be determined by the Organising Committee;
- (c) there will be no competition points deduction for the Club that was unable to honour the fixture with players having Effective Registration.

18.6.4 A Competition Match played pursuant to the authority of the Committee under Game Regulation 18.6.3 or any unplayed match where a notional 0-0 win or loss is recorded or where a match is not played for any other reason (for the purposes of this regulation 18.6.4 called 'an unplayed match') may at the end of the Season give rise to a requirement that the Organising Committee should cause an adjustment of match points of one or more Clubs to properly determine promotion (league winners or runners up) or relegation in accordance with Appendix 2.

- (a) An adjustment of match points will be made if either Club involved in the unplayed match is a contender for promotion (league winners or runners up) or relegation by virtue of an equal number of Competition points;
- (b) All match points in the corresponding fixtures of all other contending Clubs will be removed from the playing records (a corresponding fixture is defined as the scheduled fixture at the same venue as the unplayed match or in a League where Clubs play each other once only regardless of venue);
- (c) The adjustment referred to in paragraph (a) above will not be made if it benefits the defaulting Club in the unplayed match to the detriment of another Club. Further where two or more Clubs have complete records their positions relative to each other will remain unchanged by adjustments caused by a defaulting Club in an unplayed match.

18.6.5 Where it appears to the Organising Committee of the League concerned that a Club is incapable of completing its League programme for reasons unacceptable to the said Organising Committee, or if a Club voluntarily withdraws from a League, or if a Club is expelled or suspended from a League or from membership of the Competition, (for the purposes of Regulation 18.6.6 below called the defaulting Club been deleted) the results of all matches played by it shall (subject to the power of the Organising Committee in Regulation 18.6.6 hereunder) be deleted for all purposes and the final league table positions shall then be established under Appendix 2(B) from all matches played between the remaining Clubs in the League.

18.6.6 If the circumstances set out in 18.6.6 occur and the deletion of the results of all matches played by the defaulting Club causes a situation whereby another Club is deprived of promotion from or being a runner up in the League concerned or gives rise to a Club

being relegated from the League concerned which event would not have occurred had the results of all matches played by the defaulting Club not been deleted the Organising Committee may exceptionally upon the application of the Club adversely affected (such application having been made within three working days of the final League match being played by the Club adversely affected or such earlier date as the Organising Committee reasonably decide and notified to the adversely affected Club) make an adjustment or Competition or match points or take such other action so that any adverse affect upon the Club adversely affected is removed.

REGULATION 19 – KITS

19.1 Clash of Colours

19.1.1 In the event of Clubs having clashing or similar colours:

- (a) at Levels 3 to 5, the away team shall be responsible for changing its colours subject to the satisfaction of the appointed Referee.
- (b) at Levels 6 and below, the home team shall be responsible for changing its colours subject to the satisfaction of the appointed Referee.
- (c) in the Cup Competitions, the County Competitions and the U20 Competition, the home team shall be responsible for changing its colours subject to the satisfaction of the appointed Referee.

19.1.2 In respect of a Cup Competition match played at a neutral venue, the home team will be decided by the toss of a coin at least two days before the match by the Committee in the presence of two independent witnesses.

19.2 Numbering

The jerseys of Clubs should all be numbered in accordance with any iRB requirements in order to ensure the correct identification of all players and replacements during a match.

REGULATION 20 – NOTIFICATION OF MATCH RESULTS

20.1 Completion of Match Result Card

Match Result Cards will be supplied to all clubs by the RFU Tournaments & Competitions Department.

20.1.1 Club Responsibility

- (a) Each Club shall be responsible (i) for correctly completing the Match Result Card in accordance with these Game Regulations and any other relevant instructions and (ii) passing the completed Match Result Card to the Referee (or such person who is designated by him) no later than 15 minutes before kick-off.
- (b) At Levels 1-4 inclusive, each Club shall also be responsible for passing the computerised player registration list to the Referee together with the Match Result Card.
- (c) Once a Match Result Card has been passed to the Referee, it cannot be altered unless the other Club and Referee agree. If a Club refuses to agree to an alteration to a Match Result Card, this may be reported to the League Secretary within 48 hours of the completion of the match and the position will be considered by the Organising Committee.

20.1.2 Referee

- (a) At Levels 3 and 4, the Referee must check the Match Result Card and the computerised

player registration list 15 minutes before the match commences.

- (b) At all Levels, the Match Result Card must be signed by the Referee and officials from both Clubs.
- (c) At all Levels, the Referee may make reference on the Match Result Card to any breach of any of these Game Regulations.

20.1.3 Accuracy of Information

Each Club must ensure that information provided on a Match Result Card is accurate and legible. The provision of false or misleading information on players or replacements shall be a serious breach of this Game Regulation and may give rise to a severe penalty.

20.2 Notification

Match Results and Cards must be notified and submitted in accordance with the relevant Administration Instructions.

REGULATION 21 – VIDEOS

- 21.1 At Levels 4 and above, the home Club is responsible for supplying an un-edited copy of the match video or DVD to the away Club. If the video or DVD is sent by post it must be sent recorded delivery or with proof of posting and should arrive with the away Club within four days of the match.
- 21.2 Clubs must also comply with Disciplinary Regulation 5.6.5 regarding the provision of any match video or DVD to a Disciplinary Panel.

APPENDIX 1

LEAGUE COMPETITIONS (LEVEL 1 & 2)

- (a) The Premiership (Level 1)
- (b) The Championship (Level 2)

For a copy of the Guinness Premiership Regulations and/or the Championship Regulations please contact the RFU Tournaments and Competitions Department.

APPENDIX 2

LEAGUE COMPETITIONS (LEVELS 3 AND BELOW)

(A) Structure of League Competitions

1. Subject to paragraphs (A)2 (vii) and (viii) below in the 2009/10 Season there shall be:
 - (i) at Level 1 a league named the Premiership comprising 12 clubs;
 - (ii) at Level 2 a league named The Championship comprising 12 clubs;
 - (iii) at Level 3 a league named National League 1 comprising 16 clubs;
 - (iv) at Level 4 two leagues named National Leagues 2 North and South each comprising 16 clubs;
 - (v) at Level 5 four leagues named National Leagues 3 South West, London & South East, Midlands and North each comprising 14 Clubs;
 - (vi) at Level 6 eight leagues each comprising 14 clubs;
 - (vii) at Level 7 in the London & South East Division and Midlands Division eight leagues each comprising 12 clubs;
 - (viii) at Level 7 in the North Division four leagues each comprising 14 clubs;
 - (ix) at Level 7 in the South West Division two leagues each comprising 12 clubs and two leagues each comprising 14 clubs;
 - (x) at Level 8 & below such number of leagues comprising such numbers of clubs as have been approved by the Committee.

2. In the Season, the following principles shall be effective:
 - (i) Not more than two lower Leagues may support a higher League;
 - (ii) Only Club 1st XV's may take part in the Competition subject to any variation made pursuant to paragraph 2(iii) below;
 - (iii) At level 8 & below 1st XV, 2nd XV, 3rd XV teams etc., may, subject to paragraph 2(iv) below, be permitted to play together in the leagues with the consent of the Clubs, Constituent Bodies and Divisional Organising Committees involved;
 - (iv) Teams from the same Club shall not be permitted to play together in the same league;
 - (v) A Club may only play in a National League 2 North, 2 South or Divisional League according to its RFU Constituent Body allocation unless otherwise specifically agreed by the Committee or it has been required to transfer to another League pursuant to the Level Transfer Regulations;
 - (vi) Subject to paragraphs (vii) and (viii) below, in the event it becomes apparent to the Committee or an Organising Committee is advised on or after 15th June prior to any

season that a Club for any reason whatsoever is withdrawing from or is unable to participate in the Competition or in its League then the League in question will for the ensuing season comprise the remaining participating Clubs.

- (vii) In the event it becomes apparent to the RFU Management Board or the RFU Management Board is advised before 1 August prior to any season that a Premiership Club or a Championship Club for any reason whatsoever is withdrawing from or is unable to participate in the Premiership or the Championship (as the case may be), the RFU Management Board may, in its absolute discretion and subject to such terms as it may decide, require that:
 - (a) a Club which would otherwise play in the Championship play in the Premiership; and/or
 - (b) a Club which would otherwise play in Level 3 play in the Championship; and
- (viii) Where such decisions referred to in (vii) above is made on or after 15 June prior to any season the League at Level 3 will for the ensuing season comprise fewer than 16 Clubs.

(B) Club Positions

Levels 6 and below

1. Unless otherwise agreed by the RFU, the position of a Club at Levels 6 and below shall be established by awarding two League points for a win and one point for a draw. In the case of equality, positions shall be determined on the basis of match points scored. A Club with a larger difference between match points for and match points against shall be placed higher in a League than a Club with a smaller difference between match points for and match points against. Should two Clubs have the same number of Competition points and the same match points difference, the Club having scored more match points 'for' shall be placed higher in the League than the Club having the lesser number of match points 'for'. In the event of the match points 'for' still being unable to establish the position of two Clubs, and if the winning of the Competition or promotion or relegation is involved, the Club which has won the highest number of League Matches shall be placed higher. If this does not establish the position then the Club that has won the most matches, excluding its first League Match of the season, then its second League Match, until it can be established which is the higher placed Club.

Levels 3-5

2. At Levels 3-5, the position of a Club shall be established by awarding four League points for a win and two points for a draw. In addition, one bonus point will be awarded to a team:
 - (i) on each occasion it scores four or more tries in a League Match; and
 - (ii) on each occasion it loses a League Match by seven points or less.

If two or more Clubs have the same number of League points at the end of the Season, final league positions shall be determined firstly by the number of wins achieved and then on the basis of match points scored. A Club with a larger number of wins in the League shall be placed higher than a Club with the same number of League points but fewer wins. If Clubs

have equal League points and an equal number of wins in the League then a Club with a larger difference between match points 'for' and match points 'against' shall be placed higher in the League than a Club with a smaller difference between match points 'for' and match points 'against'. Should two Clubs have the same number of League points and an equal number of wins and the same match points difference, a Club having scored more match points 'for' shall be placed higher in the League than a Club having the lesser number of match points 'for'. If this still does not establish the positions then the Clubs involved shall be ranked according to the number of matches won, excluding the first League match of the season. If necessary this process shall be extended to exclude the second match, third match and so on until the final positions are established.

(C) Principles of Promotion and Relegation

The RFU the principles of promotion and relegation at the conclusion of Season 2009/10 shall be in accordance with paragraphs (i) to (xii) below:

- (i) The winner of the Championship shall be promoted to play in the Guinness Premiership (Level 1) in Season 2010/11 provided such club is able to fulfill the minimum standards criteria for the Guinness Premiership;
- (ii) Subject to (C)(ix) below, at the end of the Season the lowest placed Club in Pool C of the Championship – Stage Two calculated in accordance with Championship Regulation 3.1(a) shall be relegated to National League One (Level 3).
- (iii) The top club in National League 1 (Level 3) shall be entitled to be promoted to play at Level 2 in the 12 club competition known as the Championship (and to which different regulations apply) subject to such Club notifying the RFU by 31st May 2010 (or 96 hours from the end of its last League Match which ever is the earlier) of its intention to participate in the Championship;
- (iv) At Levels 4 & below, subject to paragraph (vii) in the case of Clubs at Level 8, where one League supports one League, the top two Clubs from the lower League at the end of the Season shall be promoted to the higher League (or Level);
- (v) Where one League supports one League at Levels 4 – 7 (inclusive) two clubs shall be relegated and the Level Transfer Regulations shall be applied;
- (vi) At Levels 4 & below, subject to paragraph (vii) in the case of Clubs at Level 8, where two Leagues support one League, the top Club in each of the supporting Leagues at the end of the Season shall be promoted to the higher League (or Level). Additionally the two second placed Clubs in each of the supporting Leagues shall play off in accordance with the Play-Off Regulations to decide which Club should win an additional promotion place for the higher Level;
- (vii) Only 1st XV teams may be promoted from level 8. Consequently, when determining which Clubs will be promoted to Level 7 from Level 8, the positions of teams other than 1st XV's shall be disregarded;
- (viii) Where two Leagues support one League at Levels 4–7 (inclusive) three Clubs shall be relegated from the higher league and the Level Transfer Regulations will apply;
- (ix) In the event of a reduction of the number of Clubs required to be relegated at levels 2

- 5 (inclusive) due to restructuring, mergers or any other reason then the Club(s) reprieved from relegation will be determined by the 'Best Playing Record' of all clubs that would normally have been relegated from each level affected. Save that a second club cannot be reprieved from the same league until all other leagues at the same level have had a team reprieved from relegation;

- (x) In the event of a reduction of the number of Clubs required to be relegated at levels 6 - 7 (inclusive) caused by any reason referred to in (C)(ix) above the principles of (C)(ix) above shall apply but only as within each Division.
- (xi) In leagues below level 7 after promotion has taken place in accordance with paragraphs (i), (iii), (iv) and (vi) above, the requisite number of Clubs shall be relegated on a geographical/ Divisional/Constituent Body basis from each League (including level 7) at the end of the Season so that in the following season there are in all such Leagues at Level 8 and below the same number of Clubs as in the Season or such other number of Clubs as the Committee may decide to rectify any special league sizes which may have been created for the Season only; and

Note: In leagues at level 8 and below it is impossible to determine how many Clubs are to be relegated from any particular League until the results of the play off matches are known and therefore into which leagues Clubs relegated will fall (on a geographical basis). Once the destination of relegated Clubs is known the knock on effect can be ascertained

- (xii) Notwithstanding the foregoing and the provisions of paragraph (A) above the Committee may in exceptional circumstance as it shall in its absolute discretion think fit, at any time:
 - 1. disapply, suspend, amend and/or vary the foregoing and/or paragraph (A) above as to relegation and/or as to the number of Clubs comprising any League or Leagues; and/or
 - 2. save that the top-placed Club in every League must be promoted to the next higher League (or Level), transfer any Club from the League in which it would have been placed by virtue of the application of sub-paragraphs (i)-(vi) above and/or the Level Transfer Regulations to such other League (whether higher or lower) as the Committee shall think fit.

Any action taken or decision made by the Committee under the powers conferred on it by the foregoing provisions of this sub-paragraph (viii) shall, subject to the outcome of any appeal to the Appeals Panel or application made under Game Regulation 2.4.2, be final and binding.

(D) Play-Offs

(i) Purpose

The purpose of these Regulations shall be to determine which of the two Clubs shall in addition to the first placed club in each of the two Relevant Leagues be promoted to play in a higher League (or Level) in the following Season subject at level 7 only to the proviso as described in C(2)(vi) above.

(ii) Format

The two Clubs shall play one Play-Off Match against each other and the winner shall be promoted.

(iii) Determination of winners in the event of a draw

1. Game Regulation 16.4 shall not apply to Play-Off Matches.
2. In the event of a draw in a Play-Off Match, there will be two 10 minute periods of extra time, with a half time interval of 5 minutes.
3. If at the end of extra time the scores are still level, the winning Club shall be the Club that has scored the most tries. If this does not produce a result, the Club that has scored the most goals from tries will be the winner.
4. If it is still not possible to determine a winner the winning Club shall be the away side.

(iv) Venue

A Play-Off Match shall be held at the ground of the Club with the Best Playing Record.

(v) Dates of Matches

Game Regulation 16.1.1 shall not apply to Play-Off Matches; instead the date of a Play-Off Match will be specified by the RFU or its delegate.

(vi) Ticket Allocation

Complimentary tickets shall be available solely for playing squads (limited to 26), the Match Officials, medical staff, and those members of the home Club who are required to be at the match to fulfill a specific role on the day of the Match (e.g. ball boys, bar staff, gate attendants).

(vii) Gate Receipts

The home Club and the away Club shall share (as to 40% for the visiting team and as to 60% for the home team) the gross gate (excluding VAT), which shall include car park and programme receipts.

Note: A Divisional Organising Committee may waive the requirements of Regulations D (vii) either wholly or in part upon being requested to do so by a participating Club where it can demonstrate to the Committee that:

- (i) The club is prohibited from 'taking a gate' or;
- (ii) It is impractical for it to do so or;
- (iii) The club has no history of 'taking a gate'

It is unlikely that this power will be exercised when the home club normally raises revenue by taking a gate including car parking and/or selling match programmes.

(viii) Accounts

In respect of a Play-Off Match, the home Club will be responsible for preparing and having available for scrutiny by the relevant Organising Committee (or its appointed nominee) proper records showing the number of persons admitted to the Play-Off Match, the price(s) charged, details of car parking receipts and programmes sold in a form that enables the Organising Committee to satisfy itself as to the gross gate referred to in Game Regulation

15.3.1 above.

(E) Level Transfer Regulations

(i) Description

These Regulations shall be called the Level Transfer Regulations and will only be applicable to Levels 4 to 7 (inclusive but excluding Clubs relegated from Level 7 to Level 8).

(ii) Procedure for Transferring Clubs

1. After promotion and relegation into and between Levels 4 – 7 has been effected pursuant to Appendix 1 and the Play-Off Regulations, Clubs shall in the first instance be placed in the League consistent with their Divisional and Constituent Body affiliation.
2. In the event that promotion and relegation pursuant to paragraph 1 above does not produce the Correct Number of Clubs for following Season in two or more leagues, a Club or Clubs shall (subject to the exception in this Appendix be Level Transferred to restore the Correct Number of Clubs. Club(s) will be selected for Level Transfer in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 below.

Note: Clubs that opted for 'level transfer' to another Division or Constituent Body for league purposes under earlier protocols will continue to be considered affiliated to their adopted Constituent Body in this first instance and for the purpose of paragraph 2 only.

3. Subject to paragraph 5 below, all Clubs in a League included in the process to produce the Correct Number of Clubs shall be liable to be transferred in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph 4.

Note: This regulation applies whether a Club has remained in the League following the Season or has been promoted or relegated into it pursuant to paragraph 3 above.

4. The following procedure will be utilised in deciding which Club(s) is (are) Level Transferred:

- (i) The Organising Committee(s) will determine the number of moves required to satisfy the overall imbalance which causes the least inconvenience to all Clubs affected. Thereafter it will identify all the Clubs that could reasonably make the required move(s) who will initially be invited to make the Level Transfer(s) voluntarily.

- (ii) In the event that too many of the identified Club(s) or insufficient of them decline to make the Level Transfer voluntarily to ensure that each League has the Correct Number of Clubs selection of Clubs for Level Transfer will take place in the following order and repeated (including the Club(s) previously selected) until each League has the Correct Number of Clubs:

- (a) Club(s) that competed in the League to be augmented in the Season and which volunteer(s) to remain there for another season;

- (b) Club(s) that volunteer(s) to take a Level Transfer;

- (c) Subject to paragraph 6 below Club(s) excluding those referred to in paragraph 5 below with

the Lowest Total Mileage between it (them) and all the Clubs that remain in the League to be augmented.

- (d) Where two Clubs have an identical Lowest Total Mileage and (subject to paragraph 6 below) a choice between those Clubs has to be made if one of the Clubs competed at a higher league level in season 2009-10 then that Club shall be asked if it wishes to take a Level Transfer and if not the other Club shall be subjected to the Level Transfer. If both clubs competed at the same level in season 2009-10 then the Club with the best playing record as the same as defined in the Play-Off Regulations shall be asked if it wishes to take a Level Transfer and if not the other Club shall be subjected to the Level Transfer.

Note: In the event that the request for Clubs to volunteer produces more than the required number of Clubs to ensure that there is the Correct Number of Clubs in each League paragraph 4(ii)(c) above will be invoked but including only those Clubs that have volunteered for the Level Transfer.

5. Following a period away a Club returning to a League consistent with its Constituent Body or Divisional affiliation other than on promotion or relegation and at the conclusion of the procedure described in paragraphs 1-4 above is entitled to remain in that League for two seasons provided it is not promoted or relegated at the end of the first season unless it volunteers for a Level Transfer.
6. Where in exceptional circumstances the strict application of paragraphs 4(ii)(c) and 5 above creates a significant disadvantage to a Club (or Clubs) whether such Club or Clubs is (are) the Club(s) to be transferred pursuant to paragraphs 4(ii)(c) above or other Club(s) affected by the proposed transfer in terms of travelling time, cost or because of local geography considerable other inconvenience AND the Organising Committee can effect a Level Transfer which removes or reduces that significant disadvantage for the benefit of the game of Rugby Union Football overall in the locality the Organising Committee may in its absolute discretion take such factors (in addition to or instead of Lowest Total Mileage) into account when deciding which Club(s) are to be Level Transferred.

(F) Miscellaneous

1. At level 2, the away Club shall be entitled to the following ticket allocation:
- (i) 20% by prior application to the home Club, such application to be made not less than fourteen days before the date of the match; and
- (ii) 12 complimentary tickets in the centre portion of the main stand and four complimentary car park passes not less than one week prior to the date of the scheduled league fixture between the two teams. These complimentary tickets shall be for seats in the centre portion of the stand as near as possible to the halfway line unless agreed otherwise between the two clubs;

APPENDIX 3

SENIOR CUPS REGULATIONS

- (a) The Anglo/Welsh Cup
- (b) The British & Irish Cup

For a copy of the Senior Cups Regulations please contact the RFU Tournaments and Competitions Department.

APPENDIX 4

CUP COMPETITIONS (OTHER THAN SENIOR CUPS)

(A) Format of Cup Competitions

1. The format of the Champions Cup shall be as follows:
 - (i) it shall comprise three (3) separate competitions;
 - (a) Level 4 Champions Cup
 - (b) Level 5 Champions Cup
 - (c) Level 6 Champions Cup
 - (ii) in the Level 4 Champions Cup it shall comprise a final between the winner of National League 2 North and the winner of National League 2 South on 2 May 2010;
 - (iii) in the Level 5 Champions Cup it shall comprise
 - (a) semi-finals drawn on an area basis, namely the Northern Division with Midland Division and London and South-East Division with South-West Division;
 - (b) a final between the winners of the two semi-finals on 2 May 2010;
 - (iv) in the Level 6 Champions Cup it shall comprise;
 - (a) quarter-finals drawn on a divisional basis;
 - (b) semi-finals drawn on an area basis, namely the Northern Division with Midland Division and London and South-East Division with South-West Division;
 - (c) a final between the winners of the two semi-finals on 2 May 2010;
 - (v) the venue of each match will be played at a venue to be determined by the Committee and the home club will be that of the first named Club to be drawn.
2. The format of the Intermediate Cup shall be as follows:
 - (i) It shall comprise semi finals and a final;
 - (ii) Each Divisional Organising Committee shall nominate one (1) club at Level 7 to enter the Intermediate Cup;
 - (iii) The semi finals will be played on an area basis, namely the Northern Division with Midland Division and London and South-East Division with South-West Division.
3. The format of the Senior Vase shall be as follows:
 - (i) it shall comprise semi finals and a final;
 - (ii) Each Divisional Organising Committee shall nominate one (1) club at Level 8 to enter the Senior Vase;

- (iii) the semi finals will be played on an area basis, namely the Northern Division with Midland Division and London and South-East Division with South-West Division. Draws will be made accordingly;
4. The format of the Junior Vase shall be as follows:
- (i) it shall comprise quarter finals, semi finals and a final;
 - (ii) Each Divisional Organising Committee shall nominate one (1) club at Levels 9 & below to enter the Junior Vase;
 - (iii) the semi finals will be played on an area basis, namely the Northern Division with Midland Division and London and South-East Division with South-West Division. Draws will be made accordingly;
5. Draws in Cup Competitions shall be made as follows:
- (i) draws for each Cup Competition will be arranged by the Committee, which shall if it considers it to be in the interest of the Cup Competition generally or the Clubs participating therein be entitled to give byes to one or more Clubs selected by the Committee in its sole and absolute discretion. The draws shall be made during the seven days following the weekend specified for the completion of the preceding round;
 - (ii) if, having agreed to participate, any Club does not take part in the Cup Competition(s) or having participated fails to honour a fixture then that Club's opponents in the round as drawn will receive a bye into the next round; in addition and, without prejudice to Game Regulation 10 or any other action that may be taken by the Committee, that Club will not be entitled to any distribution under Game Regulation 14;
 - (iii) in the event of inequality of the number of Clubs from each Local County, Region, Semi-Division, Division or area, in respect of either or any of the rounds and notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 above, there shall be preliminary draws held before the draws of either or any of the rounds, in order to provide an even number of Clubs to participate in such draws. The Committee will in its sole and absolute discretion make the necessary arrangements and take such decisions as it deems appropriate particularly in relation to travel distances for the holding of any such preliminary draws in the interests of the Competition and the participating Clubs generally;
 - (iv) Subject to sub-paragraphs (v) and (vi) below the first named Club to be drawn in a match up to and including the semi finals shall be the home team, and unless otherwise mutually agreed, the venue of that match shall be the ground of such home team. The final shall be played at a venue determined by the Committee;
 - (v) If the first-named Club to be drawn in a match plays its home fixtures in the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands, the match shall, unless both clubs agree to play off-shore at the expense of the off-shore club nevertheless, be played on the mainland of England (including for the purposes of this Regulation the Isle of Wight) either on the ground of the second named Club to be drawn or, if the Isle of Man or Channel Island Club shall so wish, on the ground of any other Club on the mainland of England within the area of the Constituent Body to which the Isle of Man or the Channel Island Club is allocated. In this event, all arrangements which are to be agreed with the host Club shall be made by the Isle of Man or Channel Island Club, which shall be responsible for any ground expenses incurred and shall be at no cost to the host Club involved;

- (vi) If the Committee so decides in its absolute discretion that the ground of the home team is not suitable for the staging of the semi-final for safety or any other substantial reason it shall have the power to require the said semi-final be played on another ground as close as possible to the ground of the home team, in which case it shall specify the financial arrangements, and the team drawn first shall be deemed to be the home team.

(B) Dates of Rounds

1. The dates of the Champions Cups shall be as follows:

- (i) The quarter finals of the Competition for Level 6 clubs will be played on the Saturday of Week 33 (17 April 2010) unless the Sunday of that weekend is agreed by both Clubs with the kick off time specified by the home Club and agreed with the away team. In the event of a dispute as to the kick off time such dispute will be settled by the Committee whose decision will be final.
- (ii) The semi finals of the Competition for Levels 5 and 6 clubs will be played on the Saturday or Sunday of Week 34 (24 April 2010). If the participating Clubs in a semi final wish to agree another date for such semi final such other date must be agreed by the Committee in their absolute discretion having regard to the reasonable wishes of the sponsors and broadcasters of the Competition.
- (iii) The finals of the Competition for Levels 4, 5 and 6 will be played at a venue to be determined by the Committee on Saturday or Sunday 1 or 2 May 2010 the kick off time being specified by the Committee.

2. The dates of the Intermediate Cup shall be as follows:

- (i) The Divisional finals will be played on Saturday 27 March 2010 the semi finals on Saturday 24 April 2010 and the final on Saturday 15 May 2010.

3. The dates of the Senior Vase shall be as follows:

- (i) The Divisional finals will be played on Saturday 27 March 2010 the semi finals on Saturday 24 April 2010 and the final on Saturday 15 May 2010

4. The dates of the Junior Vase shall be as follows:

- (i) The Divisional finals will be played on Saturday 27 March 2010 the semi finals on Saturday 24 April 2010 and the final on Saturday 15 May 2010

(C) Notification of Match Results

1. The Secretary of the Home Club shall be responsible for informing the person, firm or company appointed by the Committee of the result by 5.30 pm on match day and the match result cards submitted by both teams must reach whosoever is nominated by the Committee by 10.00 am on the Tuesday following the match.

(D) Miscellaneous

1. Tickets

In the Cup Competitions

- (a) there shall be no complimentary tickets:
- (i) at all matches in the quarter finals and semi finals the minimum charges be £5.00 for admission to the ground with a further £1.00 for a stand seat; and
- (ii) at all matches in the quarter and semi finals of a Cup Competition, all spectators (including members, season ticket holders, debenture holders, sponsors and their guests) must be charged the advertised entrance, stand and car park prices or in any event if not so charged the income from the match to be distributed in accordance with Game Regulation 15.3 above must be credited with an amount equal to the advertised prices.

APPENDIX 5

COUNTY COMPETITIONS

For a copy of the County Championship Regulations please contact the RFU Tournaments and Competitions Department

APPENDIX 6

U20 COMPETITION

(A) Competition Aims and Objectives

The overall objective of the Competition is to provide a meaningful Competition as part of the development of those players under 20 years of age. In particular its aims are to:

- (i) establish a competition, which will encourage each Constituent Body to work closely together with all its member Clubs to develop young players and their coaches and thus enable the performance of this partnership to be measured by success in the competition;
- (ii) support both Constituent Body and Club youth development programmes and, in particular, to focus on the further development of young Club players as well as their coaches emerging from the dual Schools/Youth U18 development programme;
- (iii) provide the opportunity for young Constituent Body Club players to test and measure their skills at a representative level above normal Club rugby;

(B) Format of Competition

1. In the Regional Stages of the Competition:

- (a) Each Region shall decide their own method of producing two quarter finalists by weekend 26 (March 14) to enter the draw for the National Knockout Stages;
- (b) If the Constituent Bodies play each other in a Regional League or Leagues the positions of the Constituent Bodies in each League shall be established by either:
 - (i) awarding two championship points for a win and one point for a draw. In each case of equality of such points, positions shall be determined by placing a Constituent Body with a larger points difference above a Constituent Body with a lesser points difference, the difference being established by subtracting the match points conceded from the match points scored. If this does not determine the respective positions of the Constituent Bodies concerned then a Constituent Body scoring the most points shall be placed above a Constituent Body scoring the least points; or
 - (ii) awarding four championship points for a win and two for a draw. In addition, one bonus point will be awarded:
 - (A) on each occasion it scores four or more tries in a championship match
 - (B) on each occasion it loses a championship match by seven points or less
- (c) Game Regulation 18.2.1(b) shall not apply; instead, if any match in the Regional Stages is abandoned after 60 minutes play the score when the match is abandoned shall stand unless the Committee decides otherwise;
- (d) Should the Referee abandon a match he shall before leaving the field of play advise the captains of each competing Constituent Body of the time played when the match was abandoned.
- (e) Each Region must produce a method for identifying the Quarter Finalists in the event that their regional programme is not completed. Such method must include but not be limited to

the provisions in Game Regulations 18.6.4 and 18.6.5.

2. National Quarter Final Stage of the Competition:

In the National Quarter Final Stage of the Competition one team from each region will play at home and one team from each region will play away. The Regions may if they wish devise a method before the start of the competition to decide which of their teams will have the home advantage. Such method must be notified to the participating teams in the Region and the Committee prior to the start of the Competition. In the Quarter Final Stage, teams from the North region will play teams from the Midlands region and teams from the London region will play teams from the South West region.

3. National Semi Final Stage of the Competition:

In the National Semi Final Stage of the Competition, all four teams will go into the draw which will ensure that teams from the same region do not meet each other in a Semi Final.

(C) Competition Dates

1. The Regional matches shall only be played on Sundays or where both Constituent Bodies agree on the corresponding Saturday, or where both Constituent Bodies agree on any weekday, which corresponds to a particular weekend. If no agreement is reached the match shall be played on the Sunday of the weekend.
2. The Quarter Finals shall be played on Sunday weekend 28 (28 March) or where both Constituent Bodies agree on the corresponding Saturday.
3. The Semi Finals shall be played on Sunday weekend 31 (18 April) or where both Constituent Bodies agree on the corresponding Saturday.
4. The Final shall be played on weekend 34.

(D) Venues

In every case (except the Final, which shall be played at a venue to be determined by the Committee) the Constituent Body having home advantage shall decide on which ground a match shall be played.

(E) Eligibility – Players

1. Game Regulation 13 shall not apply.
2. In order to be eligible to play in County Competitions, a player:
 - (a) must be under 20 years of age and over 17 years of age on 1st January of the current season (or sixteen years of age as in compliance with Schools & Youth Regulation 2.2(b);
 - (b) may qualify to play for a County Constituent Body by:
 - (i) birth (i.e. have been born within the boundaries of the Constituent Body);
 - (ii) residence (i.e. actually be residing within the County Constituent Body concerned when he first plays for that County, provided that he has resided therein continuously for a period of three calendar months immediately preceding the date of playing - he shall be held to be actually residing in a County Constituent Body only if his own home or ordinary place of

residence, which comprises premises which he ordinarily and regularly uses as his home and in which he ordinarily and regularly uses as a sleeping apartment, be within the boundaries of the County Constituent Body concerned, or having no other home or ordinary place of residence of his own, his parents' or guardians' ordinary place of residence is situated within the boundaries of the County Constituent Body concerned, or being a member of the Services he is stationed in the County Constituent Body, his station counts as residence);

- (iii) being a Regular playing member of a Club allocated to the Constituent Body; or
 - (iv) attending full time a School or a Further or Higher education establishment within the boundaries of the Constituent Body (i.e. actually be attending full time at the start of the competition a School or a Further or Higher education establishment situated within the boundaries of the County Constituent Body). This does not preclude players if an educational vacation coincides with the dates of the Competition;
 - (c) may qualify to play for a Service Constituent Body by being a Regular member or a Bursar of the Service in question or by being a Civilian playing member of a Club allocated to a Service Constituent Body. (The Service Constituent Body sides shall have priority to select eligible players who are Servicemen but a County Constituent Body shall have priority to select Civilian playing members of a Service Constituent Body Club provided they are eligible to play for the County Constituent Body.)
 - (d) A player may qualify to play for a Student Constituent Body if he is in full time attendance at a University, College or Further or Higher education establishment and a playing member of a Club allocated to the Student Constituent Body. (Student Constituent Body sides shall have priority to select eligible players who are full time Students.)
3. All players must be eligible to play for England U20 with the exception of Servicemen. A player is eligible to play for England U20 if:
- (a) he was born in England; or
 - (b) one or more parents or grandparents was born in England; or
 - (c) he has completed thirty-six consecutive months of residence in England immediately preceding the time of playing.
4. Any player who has played for an England U20 XV, England U20 A XV, England U18 XV, England Students XV or England Universities XV English Colleges XV and /or is selected as a member of their match day squads at any stage during the season, immediately ceases to be eligible to play in the National U20 Championship for that season. Any player who has played for or who is selected as a member of the match day squads of a comparable team for another Nation at any stage during the season immediately ceases to be eligible to play in the National U20 Championship.
5. Constituent Bodies may not select as a member of their match day squads any player who has been selected as a member of the match day squad of another Constituent Body during the same season. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes substitutes who may not even be called upon to play.
6. Any Constituent Body whether before a match or within 48 hours of the end of the match was played, which receives an official complaint (whether verbal or otherwise) regarding the

qualification of one of its players, must report the facts to the Committee within 48 hours by writing to the RFU (Tournaments & Competitions Department). The complaining Constituent Body must also within 48 hours of making the complaint report the details on which it bases it to the Committee by writing to the RFU and to the Constituent Body against which it is making the complaint. If the Committee upholds the complaint regarding the qualification of a player where the complaint is made before the match is played and the player plays, the Constituent Body concerned shall lose the match in which the unqualified player has participated by a score of 20 points to nil being four unconverted tries (unless such Constituent Body was actually defeated by a greater points difference in which case the result of the match will stand.) and suffer such further sanction as the Committee may in its absolute discretion impose. In any other case where a complaint is upheld the Committee shall impose such sanction (or sanctions) as it may in its absolute discretion see fit. In making any complaint time is of the essence. The Committee shall not be entitled to consider any complaint received unless the time limits imposed by and the procedures set out in this Regulation have been adhered to by the complaining Constituent Body.

7. Any player who has played for a Constituent Body in the Under 18 or U19 Championships in previous seasons and who so qualified to play for that Constituent Body under any earlier Regulations (as to eligibility) relating to those Competitions shall continue to be eligible for that Constituent Body until he qualifies and plays for another Constituent Body under this Appendix.

(F) Notification of Match Results

1. The home team shall fax completed form to RFU Tournaments & Competitions Department (Fax: 0208 892 4446) not later than 5.00pm for an afternoon kick-off or by 10.00pm for an evening kick-off. The result of match must also be notified to 1st XI Sport (Tel: 0845 226 0411, email: rugby@firsteleven.co.uk) not later than 5.00 pm for an afternoon kick-off or by 10.00 pm for an evening kick-off.