



## THE SWALEC CUP 2011/2012

### RULES

1. **Description:** The Competition shall be called the SWALEC Cup.

2. **Form:** The Competition shall be played on a 'knock-out' principle.

3. **Competition Format**

The Competition will be for the 38 WRU Clubs in the Premier Division and Divisions 1 East and 1 West of the WRU National League.

In Round 1 the 24 Clubs in Division 1 East and 1 West will enter the competition. 6 preliminary ties will be drawn and the remaining Clubs will receive a bye.

In Round 2 the qualifiers from Round 1 (18 Clubs) plus the 14 clubs in the Premier Division which will enter the competition.

In Round 3 the 16 qualifiers from Round 2.

In Round 4 (Quarter Finals) the 8 qualifiers from Round 3.

In Round 5 (Semi Finals) the 4 qualifiers from the Quarter Finals.

In Round 6 (The Final) the 2 qualifiers from the Semi Finals.

4. **Eligibility to Participate:**

(I) Clubs All Clubs in the Premier Division and Divisions 1 East and 1 West are eligible to participate provided that they have not been excluded from the Competition by decisions of the WRU Board.

(II) Players

(a) No player may represent a Club in the Competition unless:

- i. He is a registered or a dual registered member of that Club, or registered with a Regional Academy
- ii. He is on loan to the Club, or
- iii. a permit has been granted for him to play by his parent Club

(b) **A player may not represent two different Clubs in successive rounds of the competition in a season.**

**NB. Disqualification from the competition shall be automatic for any Club which plays in its team an ineligible player –see Rule 16**



- (c) A Club may register 2 overseas players who will at any one time be eligible to play in fixtures (i.e. if one or both overseas player(s) leave the Club he/ they may be replaced providing the number of overseas players does not exceed 2). In the case of a professional player from outside the EC and who does not have EC workers rights, a licence to employ the player must be obtained by the Club from the UK Border Agency. An application for a licence to employ a professional rugby player has to be supported by the Union. The Union will not support an application for a licence to employ a professional rugby player other than an application made by a Regional Team or a Premier Division Club. The numbers of overseas players which may be registered by Regional Teams is governed by the Participation Agreements between the WRU and the Regional Members.

An overseas player is one who is not qualified to play for Wales at the date of registration and who cannot prove to the satisfaction of the WRU that he is entitled to the rights granted under Title III of the EC Treaty or under the EEA or other European Agreement (i.e. a person who has European workers rights).

- (d) **Clubs in the Premier Division** which run only one senior team will be limited to registering up to 32 players who will be eligible to play for the Club in the Competition. Clubs in the Premier Division which run two or more senior teams, provided that the second team plays at least 16 matches a season, will be allowed to register more than 32 players.
- (e) No player is eligible to play for a Club in the Competition if he transfers, or is registered, after 31<sup>st</sup> January in any season, unless such player is:
- (i) A player, registered with that Club's Youth team, who has attained the age of 18 and is subsequently registered as a Senior player with that Club.
  - (ii) A Player who is subject to a permanent residential relocation from another area where extensive travel (in excess of 100 miles round trip) precludes the player continuing to play for his former Club (applies to Division 1 but does not apply to clubs in the Premier Division). **Before such a player may play in the Competition the player's registration must be sanctioned by the Union's Regulatory Committee.**
  - (iii) A Player not previously registered with any other rugby Club. **Before such a player may play in the Competition the player's registration must be sanctioned by the Union's Regulatory Committee.**
- (f) A player who transfers in the period between the end of the previous season and 31<sup>st</sup> January will be eligible to play for his new Club in the Competitions provided the **properly completed** transfer and registration forms are received within the Union's offices as follows:-
- (i) At least 7 days prior to the match kick off time if the player is transferring from another Club and the registration / transfer form has not been countersigned by his previous Club.



- (ii) At least 2 days prior to the match kick off time if the player has not been registered with another Club, or if transferring from another Club, the registration / transfer form has been countersigned by his previous Club. For avoidance of doubt, the deadline to allow a player to play in a Saturday fixture is 12 noon on the Thursday prior to the fixture; for a Wednesday fixture the deadline is 12 noon on the Monday prior to a fixture and so on.

However, if he has played this season for another Club in the previous round of a WRU Knock Out competition be it Cup, Plate or Bowl, he must miss the round for his new club immediately after the date of his transfer before he becomes eligible to play.

(g) **PLAYER LOAN SCHEME**

Details of the Player Loan scheme are outlined in Regulation 6 of the Player Registration and Transfer Regulations.

(h) **PLAYER PERMITS**

The **player permit** scheme will operate as follows:

- (i) In any match in the Competition, a Club may play up to a maximum of 6 players on permit in any position.
- (ii) A player may not play on permit for another Club if he has played for his Club in the previous round of the current season's Knock Out Competition, that is Cup, Plate or Bowl competitions.  
  
A player may not play for his Club if he played on permit for another Club in the previous round of the current season's Cup, Plate or Bowl competitions.
- (iii) A player registered with a Regional team may play on permit in the competition only for a Premier Division Club. A player registered with a Regional Academy may play on permit for a Premier Division club or a Division 1 club in the competition . Regional Team and Regional Academy players placed on permit with a Club will have to have made a minimum of 5 appearances (**at least 45 minutes on the field in each match**) in League matches for that Club in this season to be eligible to play on permit for that club in the Competition.
- (iv) A Regional Team player who is an Overseas player may play on permit for a Premier Division Club in the Competition.
- (v) In the case of **Regional Academy players who** may play on permit for a Club in the Premier Division or a Club in one of the Divisions 1, the requisite permits may be granted only by the Manager of the Regional Academy, or his nominated deputy. For this permit to be valid it must be lodged with the Union's Fixture & Competitions Manager *before the match takes place*.
- (vi) Permits may be obtained as outlined in the following table:-



Division	Clubs from where permits may be obtained
Premier Division	Regional Teams (max 2) Regional Academy (max 6) Premier Division Club (max 1) Divisions 1 to 7 (max 6) District member clubs (max 6) (OVERALL MAXIMUM OF 6 PERMIT PLAYERS PER MATCH)
Divisions 1 East and West	Regional Academy (max 6) Divisions 1 to 7 (max 6) District member Clubs (max 6) (OVERALL MAXIMUM OF 6 PERMIT PLAYERS PER MATCH)

- (vii) **A permit must be sought for each match in which a player plays and such permit may be granted for a match at any time in the season. Any permit issued must be made in writing (via fax, posted letter or email), by both the Club with which the player is registered, and the Club with which he is to play on permit and lodged with the Union before the match takes place. In exceptional circumstances, where a permit is agreed during WRU office closure hours (e.g. a Saturday), the permit may be lodged by telephoning 02920 822407 or 02920 822404 and leaving a voicemail message. The written confirmation must be sent to the Union as soon as possible after lodging the voicemail message.**
- (viii) A Permit is a letter of permission written by an Official of the Club with which the player is registered. All permit requests will be acknowledged in writing by the Union. (see *Player Registration and Transfer Regulations*)
- (ix) Team sheets submitted to the match official prior to the start of a match **must** identify players on permit, loan or dual registration and their parent Club.

(i) **DUAL REGISTRATION SCHEME**

A player who is dually registered will be eligible to play in the competition. Details of the Dual Registration Scheme are outlined in Regulation 8 of the Player Registration and Transfer Regulations.

A player may not play for his Club if he played on dual registration for another Club in the previous round of this season's WRU Knock Out Competitions.

(j) **Replacements**

In all Rounds of the competition up to 7 replacements may be named provided of the 22 named players and replacements, there must be 5 (five) suitably trained and experienced players who can play in the front row to ensure that on the first occasion that a replacement hooker is required and, on the first occasion that a replacement prop forward is required, the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums.



A Club may play without any named replacements. If that Club names 15 players only there is no need to name more than 3 suitably trained and experienced front row players.

**For clarification the Laws of the Game state:-**

Each player in the front row and any potential replacement(s) must be suitably trained and experienced.

When 16, 17 or 18 players are nominated in a team there must be four players capable of playing in the front row.

When 19, 20, 21 or 22 players are nominated in a team there must be five (5) players who can play in the front row to ensure that on the first occasion that a replacement hooker is required and, on the first occasion that a replacement prop forward is required, the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums.

The replacement of a front row forward **must** come from suitably trained and experienced players who **started** the match or from the nominated replacements.

If after a front row player has been sent off or during the time a front row player is temporarily suspended, and there are no further front row players available from the nominated team, then uncontested scrums will be ordered. **It is not the responsibility of the match official to determine the suitability of trained front row replacements nor their availability, as this is a team responsibility.**

5. **Entry Condition**

All Clubs participating in the Competition shall agree to abide by the Rules of the Competition.

6. **Responsibility for Organisation**

- (a) All matches from Round 1 to Quarter Final (inclusive) in the competition - Home club
- (b) Semi Finals and Final of the competition - WRU
- (c) The Final will take place on the date specified by the WRU

7. **Match Officials**

- (a) Referees will be appointed by the WRU for all matches in the competition.
- (b) Assistant Referees will be appointed by the WRU for the Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Final of the competition. The competing clubs will appoint touch judges to the ties in the earlier rounds of the competition.

8. **Duration of Play**

80 minutes each match (40 minutes each half) plus any time permitted for delays. At half time an interval of not more than 10 minutes is allowed. If scores equal at full time - see Rule 12.

The Referee is to be the sole judge of the amount of time played (Rule 14.b).



9. **Venue**

Except by mutual agreement of the competing Clubs, all matches in the competition in Round 1 to Quarter-Final Rounds, will be played on the ground of the Club drawn first in respect of each match. This Club will be the Home Club - see Rule 14.

The Semi-Finals will be played on a ground or grounds selected by the WRU

The Final will be played at a ground to be selected by the WRU.

10. **The Draw**

The draw for Round 1 shall be made by 31<sup>st</sup> July of each year.

The draw for Round 2 and subsequent rounds shall ordinarily be made during the week following the scheduled date of the preceding round.

11. **Dates for Cup Rounds**

All matches must be played on the scheduled dates except in the case of postponement because of adverse ground or weather conditions.

**Date**

<b>Round 1</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> December 2011</b>
<b>Round 2</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> January 2012</b>
<b>Round 3</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> February 2012</b>
<b>Round 4</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> March 2012</b>
<b>Round 5 (Semi Final)</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> April 2012</b>
<b>Round 6 (Final)</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> May 2012</b>

12. **Declaration of Winners**

Winners of the matches in each tie in the competition will be:-

- (a) The Club which has scored the greatest number of points at the end of the match.
- (b) In the event of an equal number of points being scored by each Club at the end of the match, winners will be declared in the following priority:-
  - (i) The Club which has scored the greater number of tries.
  - (ii) The Club which has scored the greater number of goals (converted tries).
  - (iii) If after (i) and (ii) have been applied no clear winner has emerged, extra time of 20 minutes (ten minutes each way) will be played and the winners declared in accordance with (a) or (b), (i) and (ii).
  - (iv) If the result is still a tie the club playing away from home will be declared the winner, except in the case of the Semi Finals where a replay will take place, such replay to be played within 14 days. If the result is still a tie then the winners will be decided on the toss of a coin. In the Final the result shall be declared a draw and the Cup held by each Club for six months.
- (c) **If a Club elects to take uncontested scrums** in a tie the matter will be reported by the appointed Referee to the Regulatory Committee. The Regulatory Committee will hold an



inquiry into why uncontested scrums had taken place during the match. If after this inquiry the Regulatory Committee deems it appropriate it may apply any of the sanctions upon the offending club set out in Rule 16.

13. **Notification of Winners**

The appointed Referee will notify the WRU of the result of each match up to and including the Semi-Finals, within three days after the matches have been played. Each notification must be accompanied by team lists, which must be completed by Officials of each Club and handed to the Referee prior to the kick-off.

14. **Postponed or Abandoned Matches**

- (a) **Postponed Matches:** Must be played within 10 days after the original specified date (see Rule 11), either at the original venue or at a venue and time determined by the Home club.
- (b) **Abandoned Matches:** All matches must be played to full time. The Referee is to be the sole judge of the amount of time. If a match is abandoned before full time it must be replayed within 10 days either at the original venue or at a venue and time determined by the Home Club **unless both Clubs agree the score, at the time of the abandonment, should stand.**

*NB: If a Club elects to take **uncontested scrums** it will be subject to an inquiry by the Regulatory Committee. (see Rule 12(c) above).*

15. **Protests and Disputes**

Protests or disputes arising out of the competition or the Rules relating thereto must be made in writing to the Group Chief Executive, Welsh Rugby Union Ltd and accompanied by a fee of £100.00 which may or may not be refunded. No protests or disputes relating to matches already played in the Competition will be entertained if made more than ten days after the match in question has taken place.

16. **Sanctions**

**If a Club plays an ineligible player it will be disqualified from the Competition. In other cases the adjudicators shall have the power to disqualify, fine, reprimand or warn a Club.**

Should a Club withdraw prior to the start of the Competition, or fail to complete a tie in the Competition, that Club will be barred from entering the WRU Knock Out competitions the following Season and £500 will be deducted from the Club's core grant for that Season.

17. **Adjudicators**

The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Regulatory Committee shall form the Adjudicating Panel and shall have absolute discretion in dealing with any matters relating to the competition whether or not provided for in the Rules and their decision shall be final.

18. **Security of Trophy**

When the winning Club has been ascertained, the SWALEC Cup shall be handed to the winner of the competition. That Club will be responsible for the safe custody of the trophy and subsequent return to the Group Chief Executive, Welsh Rugby Union Ltd, by 1 April each year.

Whilst the trophy is in the possession of the Winning Club the Club will insure the trophy and ensure it is kept in good repair and condition.





- (b) Payment to players or the payment of players' expenses to point of assembly or the expenses of players not travelling by official transport.
- (c) Hire of additional spectator refreshment facilities.
- (d) Expenses of Match Officials which are to be claimed in the usual way.
- (e) Payment of bar staff.

### **Final of the Competition**

Gate receipts, after deduction of expenses incurred by the Union in staging the match and where appropriate, travelling expenses of Clubs participating, will be attributed to the Competition's Reserve Fund. Prize money will be paid to the winners of the Competition.

Prize Money will be paid as follows:

Winning Club - £15,000  
Runners Up - £ 7,500

### **Travel Expenses**

The Away Side will receive a payment of £2.10 per mile expenses incurred in a round journey in excess of 60 miles.

Where a club needs to travel to or from District J the Away Club can claim for the cost of a coach and overnight meals and accommodation for 26 people up to a maximum of £1,750. Invoices and receipts must be submitted to support the claim. This replaces the £200 and excess mileage payments.

### **Ticketing**

Home Clubs are obliged to offer their visitors a minimum of one third of available Stand Tickets.

When tickets are issued by the WRU on a sale or return basis, any unsold tickets must be returned no later than 14 days after the date of the match with a breakdown of concession tickets sold where applicable.

### **Admission Charges**

Admission charges for ties played in the Semi Finals and Final in the Competition shall be determined, from time to time, by the Union.

### **Programmes**

Receipts from separate programme sales may be retained by the Home Club. Similarly, any loss sustained in the production of a programme shall be borne by the Home Club and not included in the match account. These provisions shall not apply to Semi Finals and Final where net receipts shall be included in the match account. Where admission is by programme the whole net receipts shall be regarded as gate money.

### d. **Penalties**

- i. Clubs who fail to comply with these timescales (at b above - Timescales) and / or to make due payments to their opponent Club (as set out in c above - Financial Distributions) will be excluded from the next round of the Competition which falls after the expiry of the respective timescales. If the next round of the Cup for which



the offending Club is eligible in which to compete is the first round of the following Season's competition then the Club will be debarred from entry to the Draw for the WRU Knock Out Competitions in that season and the financial penalty recorded in Rule 16 will apply.

- ii. In the event of a Club continuing to owe monies after the expiry of these timescales, the WRU may withhold ALL payments to the defaulting Club pending:-
- Filing of outstanding financial statements; and
  - Payment of monies due to the opposing Club(s)