

WRU Colleges Competition Rules 2015-2016

1. Description

The competition shall be called the 'WRU Wednesday U18 Competition' (hereinafter "The Competition").

2. Form

The competition will be formed of four preliminary groups to determine the placings for the Cup and Trophy competitions. The top two sides in Group A along with the winners and best runner-up of Group B, C, and D will enter the Cup competition whilst the remaining sides will compete for the trophy. The Champion College will be declared after a series of playoff matches at the end of the programme of the Cup competition.

3. Eligibility

a. Colleges

The Colleges that participate in the Competition shall be invited to do so by the Welsh Rugby Union.

b. Players

- i) To be eligible to play in the Competition, a player must be:
 - a. Under 18 years old on 31st August
 - b. Registered by the College for which he plays and the registration having been properly completed with the Welsh Rugby Union or
 - c. A contracted Regional Academy player for whom the Academy Manager has granted a permit to allow him to play
- ii) Players who are contracted to a WRU Regional Academy shall be registered by that Academy with the WRU.

Permits allowing Academy players must be lodged with the Competition Secretary before the match in which the permit is granted is played. No more

than 4 players may play for a College in the Competition in a match. There will be no limit on the number of times a player may play on permit for a College.

4. Entry Conditions

Colleges participating in the competition must conform to:-

- a. The rules contained herein
- b. The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Welsh Rugby Union Limited and the Regulations and Resolutions of the Board of the WRU Limited.
- c. The Bye Laws, Resolutions and Regulations relating to the Game by World Rugby.
- d. The laws of the Game (the World Rugby Under 19 Laws will apply to this League)

5. Responsibility for Organisation

- a. The competition will be organised and administered by the Welsh Rugby Union.
- b. The Welsh Rugby Union shall carry out the organisation and administration of the Competition through the appointment of a Competition Secretary and a Competition Committee.
- c. The Competition Secretary shall organise the Competition on a day to day basis.
- d. The Competition Committee shall consider matters of policy and settle disputes relating to the rules contained herein as they arise.
- e. When cases of an urgent nature occur, the Chairman of the Competition Committee, in consultation with the Competition Secretary, shall have absolute discretion to deal with these cases whether provided for herein or not. Decisions made by the Chairman and the Competition Secretary in such cases shall be binding.
- f. A College shall have the right to appeal to a Sub Committee appointed by the WRU Board of Directors against a decision of the Competition Committee provided that the appeal is made in writing, addressed to the WRU Competition Secretary accompanied by a cheque for £100 made payable to the WRU and

received by the Competition Secretary no more than 14 days after the decision made by the Competition Committee is delivered to a College.

6. General Rules

a. Fixtures

- i. All Competition fixtures must be played and each College must complete its programme of Competition Fixtures.
- ii. In the event of a Competition fixture not being played on the due date either because of postponement or abandonment the failure to play the fixture must be reported to the Competition Secretary within 24 hours of the original date of the fixture. When the Competition Secretary receives a report he will enquire as to the reason for the non-completion of the fixture. If the Competition Secretary deems that further enquiries are necessary he will call a meeting of the Competition Committee to consider the matter. If the Competition Committee finds that a College was at fault for the non-completion of a fixture then it may, if it deems is appropriate, impose sanctions as hereinafter described.
- iii. Abandoned matches must be replayed unless the Colleges mutually agree that a result may stand and that agreement is endorsed by the Competition Secretary.
- iv. Competition matches must be played on the designated dates unless postponed because of ground or weather conditions or postponed by mutual consent of the participating Colleges with the prior agreement of the Competition Secretary, such agreement to be made at least 3 days before the date of the due fixture.
- v. Postponed or abandoned matches must be rearranged and played no later than March 31st 2016.

b. Declaration of Winners

The winners of a match will be the team that has scored the greater number of points at the end of the match.

The competition will trial a variety of new laws this season which will include a try being worth six points, a conversion remaining at two and penalties and dropped goals both become two point scores.

A penalty try will automatically be an eight point score with no conversion to be taken.

Other Law changes are also being introduced in the trial:-

Uncontested scrums must involve eight players from each team.

If time expires and a mark, free kick or penalty is awarded the referee will allow play to continue and a line-out will be allowed to take place if a team kicks to touch from a penalty.

The sevens game variations for kick off sanctions will be introduced so a free kick will be ordered at the half way line instead of a restart kick.

Competition points will be awarded as follows.

Win - 4 points

Draw - 2 points

A bonus point will be awarded if a College scores 4 or more tries in a match. If a College loses by 8 points or fewer it will gain a bonus point.

c. Competition Placings

Divisional placings will be decided on the basis of Competition points gained in the season. Where Colleges have gained equal number of Competition points, the College that has recorded the most wins shall be given preference. If the number of wins is equal, the points scored by the College will be divided by the points against and the College with the highest factor shall be declared to have the better record.

d. Duration of Play

Each match will be of 70 minute playing time, that is 35 minutes each half (Laws of the Game – Law 5.1). At half time an interval of no more than 10 minutes is allowed.

e. Match Results

The Home College must advise the Competition Secretary of the result of a match played via e-mail by 12pm on the day after a match.

It is the home team's responsibility to send the completed score sheet with BOTH teams' details (teams, substitutions and scorers including times) to the Competition Secretary via e-mail no later than 24 hours after a match has been played (ataylor@wru.co.uk)

f. Protests and Disputes

Protests and disputes arising from the Competition fixtures or the operation of the Competition must be made in writing to the Competition Secretary, each protest or dispute must be accompanied by a fee of £100. This fee may or may not be refunded. The Competition Committee will be convened to consider any such protest or dispute.

g. Penalties and Sanctions

The Competition Committee shall in cases where it finds a College in default of the rules herein have authority to impose sanctions upon a College. The range of the available sanctions shall be:-

- i. The deduction of Competition points from a College's total, the norm being the deduction of 4 points.
- ii. The imposition of a fine.
- iii. The suspension of a College
- iv. Expunging a College's playing record for the season.

h. Miscellaneous Provisions

- i. If a College elects to playing uncontested scrummages then that College will not forfeit the match. League matches may start using uncontested scrummages.

The team electing to play with non contested scrummages will be allowed to use substitutes.

- ii. If a College is unable to fulfil a fixture due to their pitch being unplayable the 'away' team then has the opportunity to provide the match venue.
- iii. All games will be played with a size 5 Gilbert ball.
- iv. All games will be provided with Paramedic support and it is vital that you inform the Competition Secretary if your venue changes at any point as they will need to be informed.