

## RUGBY UNION

The Rugby Union Championships shall be conducted under the Laws of the International Rugby Board. With regards to specific competition rules the interpretations that apply shall be those applicable to the senior national knockout cup for the knockout rounds and RFU Premier League competition for all leagues (Men + Women). Note specific Women's regulations below.

### RUU 1 **Competition Structure**

There shall be a two-tiered Premier League in England and Wales for Men 1st XVs. This will consist of the best 28 teams split into four leagues – Premier North A, Premier North B, Premier South A and Premier South B. The remaining teams will compete in the Conference leagues. Women's teams will compete in Premier Leagues and Conference leagues.

### RUU 2 **Premier League Requirements**

RUU 2.1 Playing facilities should be of an appropriate quality for Premier League matches and should comply with national governing body regulations for matches of this standard. Pitches should, as a minimum, be roped off to a distance of 3 metres to prevent spectator encroachment.

RUU 2.2 Post protectors must be available and in place.

RUU 2.3 For each Premier League A Men's Rugby Union match, either the RFU central appointments body or the local appointments body will appoint the referee and where possible touch judges. Total costs for these officials shall be covered by the home institution. The host institution is responsible for confirming that these appointments have been made and for contacting the officials concerned with match information. For other Premier League matches, host institutions must provide an appropriately qualified and neutral referee. The host institution is also responsible for the provision of 2 touch judges.

RUU 2.4 Glass Ceiling. A glass ceiling has been implemented between Premier A and Premier B to allow 2<sup>nd</sup> teams to progress to Premier B and no further. A glass ceiling is retained between Premier B and Tier 1 preventing 3<sup>rd</sup> teams and below from progressing to Premier B.

## **Competition Regulations**

### RUU 3 **Officials**

From the Men's 1st XV quarter-finals onwards officials will be organised by BUCS (where possible).

### RUU 4 **Tie on Points in a League**

In the event of a tie on points for the leadership of a league the procedure shall be as detailed in REG 17.10.

### RUU 5 **Tie in Knockout Rounds or Quarter-Final Matches**

If at the end of a match the teams are tying, a period of extra time of ten minutes each way with an interval of one minute shall be played. If the teams are still tying at the end of that period of extra time, then the team that has scored the most tries shall go forward to the next round. If this does not produce a result, the team that has scored most goals from tries shall go forward into the next round. If a result is still not forthcoming, the visiting team shall go forward into the next round. If, in the opinion of

the referee, extra time cannot be played, then the above regulation shall be applied to the score standing at the end of normal playing time.

**RUU 6 Tie in the Semi-Final Matches**

RUU 6.1 If at the end of the match, the teams are tying, a period of extra time of ten minutes each way with one minute interval shall be played. If the teams are still tying at the end of that period of extra time, then the team that has scored most tries shall go forward into the final. If this does not produce a result, the team that has scored most goals from tries shall go forward into the final.

RUU 6.2 If this does not produce a result each team, as represented by the players on the pitch at the conclusion of the match, in an order to be decided by the Captain, and alternately with the opposing team, shall take penalty kicks from the centre point of one 22m line, to be decided by the referee. After five players from each team have completed the kicks the team who has scored one more goal than its opponents, shall go forward to the final. If the teams are still tying the captain will nominate a player one at a time until one team scores and the other misses.

**RUU 7 Tie in the Final**

RUU 7.1 In the Final, if at the end of 40 minutes each way the scores are equal there shall be an immediate period of extra time of ten minutes each way with a one minute interval. If the scores remain equal then the winning team will be decided by application of:

RUU 7.1.1 Most tries scored.

RUU 7.1.2 Most goals from tries.

RUU 7.1.3 Finally if scores remain equal the Championship shall be shared.

**RUU 8 Interval**

In all matches the interval between halves shall be of five minutes duration. BUCS reserves the right to increase the duration in a Championship Final.

**RUU 9 Replacements**

RUU 9.1 In Men's and Women's 1st XV Premier Leagues and Tier 1 Leagues, a maximum of seven replacements per team may be in attendance and used. At least five of the nominated squad (irrespective of squad size, but maximum 22) must be able to play in front row positions.

RUU 9.2 In Men's and Women's leagues below Tier 1 level, a maximum of four replacements may be used. The number of suitably trained and experienced front row players of the nominated squad (maximum 19 players) must conform to the following IRB Regulations:

<b>No. of Players</b>	<b>No of Suitably Trained &amp; Experienced Players</b>
15 or less	3 players who can play in the front row
16, 17 or 18	4 players who can play in the front row
19, (20, 21 or 22)	5 players who can play in the front row

When 19, 20, 21 or 22 players are nominated in a team there must be five 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.

RUU 9.3 Should a team be unable to provide the correct number of front row players, they must reduce their squad size to meet the IRB regulations (see table above).

*Example: a team arriving with only 4 front row players will be entitled to have a maximum squad size of 18 players (including the 4 front row players) for the duration of the match. If the opposition have a full complement of front row players, they are entitled to the maximum squad size of 19 or 22 (dependent on the league regulations – see RUU 9.1 and RUU 9.2)*

RUU 9.4 In the event that a team cannot field front row players at the start of the match, the game will start with uncontested scrums providing RUU 9.3 has been met.

RUU 9.5 If the above requirements have been met and a front row cannot be replaced then the match shall continue with uncontested scrums.

RUU 9.6 An uncontested scrum is defined as the same as for normal scrummages except that:

RUU 9.6.1 There is no contest for the ball.

RUU 9.6.2 The team putting the ball in must win it.

RUU 9.6.3 Neither team is permitted to push.

RUU 9.6.4 Normal rules regarding offside and binding still apply.

RUU 9.7 For ALL KNOCKOUT competitions i.e. Championship, Shield, Trophy, Plate and Vase seven REPLACEMENTS PER TEAM may be in attendance and used. (At least five players must be able to play in front row positions - IRB law 3(5)(5)(B)). RUU 9.3, RUU 9.4 and RUU 9.5 still apply.

RUU 9.8 The front row players AND replacements must be identified to the Referee before each match.

## RUU 10 **Player Dress**

Rules regarding player's protective clothing shall follow the rules as laid down by the respective home unions. This applies specifically to protective equipment and studs etc.

## RUU 11 **Women's Championship**

RUU 11.1 All matches below Premier League level (i.e. Tier 1 and below including Trophy knockout matches) will be played according to IRB U-19 scrummage regulations.

RUU 11.2 Where a Premier League team is drawn against a team qualifying from Tier 1 in the Championships, the match will be played according to IRB U19 scrummage regulations.

## RUU 12 **Representative Commitments**

When four or more players are selected for a National Governing Body senior side (Full, A, U21, Students, Universities or Women's Academy), the institution concerned shall be able to postpone the fixture to an agreed date within the qualifying period. For league fixtures the qualifying period ceases on the published cut off date. For

knock out fixtures the qualifying period is such that the following round will take place on the published date. This ruling shall not apply to any of the finals.

**RUU 13 Men's and Women's 7-a-Side Championships**

Men's and Women's Seven-a-Side Championships will be held annually at a venue to be decided by the BUCS Office. The tournament shall be run in accordance with rules set out in the IRB Handbook and sent out prior to the competition.