



THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE RFU SECURITY PLUS PENNANT COMPETITION RULES 2019 - 2020



1. COMPETITION DESCRIPTION

The Competition shall be organised by The Nottinghamshire Rugby Football Union for invited Club XV's generally from within the membership of the RFU Constituent Body of Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire and from any other Constituent Body as the Pennant Sub-Committee shall from time to time agree and shall be called The Nottinghamshire Rugby Football Union Security Plus Pennant.

All matches in the Competition shall, subject only to any specific variations below, be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game of Rugby Union as currently published by World Rugby.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF CLUBS FOR ENTRY INTO THE COMPETITION

Any Club in membership of NLDRFU or any other Constituent Body as the Pennant Committee may agree, having paid any membership due to the respective Constituent Body and being covered by the RFU Compulsory Insurance cover in respect of the team to be entered, may request or may be invited to enter the Competition and, subject to the payment of the requisite entry fee, (to be determined annually by the Pennant Sub-Committee), shall be eligible to do so.

3. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS TO PARTICIPATE

3.1 Every Club entering shall abide by the spirit of the Competition and field only bona fide nominated Club XV selections as described in the fixture list.

3.2 Except where 1st XV's are permitted to enter this Competition any player playing or named as a replacement in any Club 1st XV or any higher level Club XV in a Pennant match immediately preceding the Pennant match in question, shall not be eligible to play in the Pennant match in question.

Any doubt over a player's eligibility to play in a Pennant match should be referred to the Pennant Secretary prior to player selection and no later than 24 hours prior to the Pennant match being played.

3.3 All Clubs shall maintain complete team records which shall be made immediately available at the request of the Pennant Committee.

3.4 If any Club is subsequently found to have been represented by an ineligible player in any match the score in that match shall be deemed null and void and the opposition team shall be awarded a walkover win.

3.5 Any Club wishing to raise a post-match matter regarding player eligibility shall do so in writing within 24 hours of the match being played.

4. ORGANISATION

The Competition shall be organised by the Pennant Committee, comprising The Nottinghamshire Rugby Football Union Committee, and their decisions shall be binding and final on any matter not expressly provided for in, or by their interpretation of, these Competition Rules and regulations.

5. ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the Competition shall be delegated by the Pennant Committee to a Pennant Secretary.

6. PENNANT STRUCTURE

- 6.1 The Pennant Committee shall determine, no later than June of each year, the Structure of the Pennant for the ensuing season, having due regard, amongst other things, to results obtained by competing teams in the last completed season, Clubs wishes, travel distances, and the ease with which Club Fixture Secretaries may organise fixtures against Clubs within the same Group of the Pennant structure.
- 6.2 There shall be no automatic promotion or relegation of clubs from or to any Group.

7 PENNANT GROUP POSITIONS

- 7.1 Subject to Rule 11 the position of any Club in any Group shall be determined by the awarding of Pennant points as follows:-
4 points for an away win
3 points for a home win
2 points for a home draw
3 points for an away draw
1 point for an away loss

1 try bonus point if 4 or more tries are scored
1 losing bonus point for a loss by 7 points or less

Home Walkovers will be awarded as 4 points (i.e. a home win + 1 try bonus point)

Away Walkovers will be awarded as 5 points (i.e. an away win + 1 try bonus point)

Matches cancelled due to weather and or pitches rendered un-playable by weather conditions and which subsequently remain un-played shall be deemed to be a 0-0 draw with no points being awarded to either side.

In the case of equality of Pennant points, positions within any Group shall be determined on the basis of match points scored. A Club with a greater difference between match points for and match points against, shall be placed higher in a Pennant Group than a Club with a smaller difference between match points for and match points against.

In the case of equality of "pennant points" and "match points difference", a Club with a higher number of match points for shall be placed higher in a Pennant Group than a Club with a smaller number of match points for.

In the case of equality of "pennant points", "match points difference" and equality of "match points for", a Club with a higher number of combined try and losing bonus points shall be placed higher in a Pennant Group than a Club with a smaller number of combined try and losing bonus points.

In the case of equality of "pennant points", equality of "match points difference", equality of "match points for", and equality of "bonus points" then, unless a winners or runners-up position is involved, and due regard having being taken of all un-played matches, the position in a Pennant Group shall be tied.

In the case of a winners or runners-up position being involved, the Club having the greatest aggregate points difference from the matches between the Clubs involved shall be placed higher in the Pennant Group.

In the event of equality of all of the above the position in a Pennant Group shall be tied.

8 FIXTURES

- 8.1 Each Club shall play each other Club within the same group **TWICE** per season, once at home and once away. Additional "play-off" matches may be included in the structure at the instigation of the Pennant Committee. The inclusion of any such additional matches will be advised to all participants at the commencement of the season.
- 8.2 A schedule of designated dates shall be issued by the Pennant Committee. All Pennant fixtures shall be played on the designated dates. Clubs may, by mutual agreement, and subject to **both** clubs advising

the Pennant Secretary in writing prior to the commencement of the season, agree alternative dates from the schedule of designated dates for their fixtures.

- 8.3 Where there are no such designated dates then Clubs shall agree to play fixtures on mutually agreed dates. In the event that Clubs cannot mutually agree a fixture date the Pennant Committee shall determine a date which shall be binding on both Clubs.
- 8.4 All changes to published fixture dates and venues shall be confirmed in writing to the Pennant Secretary **by both Clubs** by no later than 31 August each year.
- 8.5 **Dates and venues of fixtures subsequently published on the RFU Game Management System at the commencement of the season shall be deemed to be the agreed mutually acceptable dates and venues.**
- 8.6 Any changes to dates during the season must be notified to the Pennant Secretary, **by both Clubs**, a minimum of 7 days prior to the amended match date.

9 APPOINTMENT OF MATCH OFFICIALS

- 9.1 It shall ultimately be the Home Club's responsibility in accordance with RFU Laws of the Game to ensure the appointment of a referee.
- 9.2 Referees should preferably, wherever Society numbers permit, be appointed through the Home Club's Referees Society.
- 9.3 Absence of a Society appointed referee shall not be a reason for any match not to be played. It shall ultimately be the Home Club's responsibility to ensure the appointment of a referee.

10 NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

- 10.1 **ALL RESULTS, TOGETHER WITH THE NUMBER OF TRIES SCORED BY EACH SIDE, SHALL BE NOTIFIED BY BOTH CLUBS, TO THE PENNANT SECRETARY BY E-MAIL TO kpkrfc@btinternet.com NO LATER THAN 5.00PM ON THE DAY FOLLOWING THE MATCH.**

PENNANT MATCH RESULTS SHOULD NOT BE ENTERED ON TO RFU GMS VIA THE ELECTRONIC MATCH CARD SYSTEM BY CLUBS.

- 10.2 Failure by either Club to confirm cancellation of a Pennant match prior to or within the same time frame shall be deemed to be a failure to return a match result.
- 10.3 Any Club failing to return a match result within the designated time frame will be penalised by the imposition of a £20 fine.

11 FULFILMENT OF MATCHES - GAME ON PRINCIPLES

- 11.1 Clubs shall use their **best endeavours** to fulfil all scheduled fixtures.
- 11.2 In addition to the following rules, all GAME ON principles shall apply to all matches. The adoption of any of the following or any of the GAME ON principles shall not affect the outcome of any match. The adoption of any of the principles shall be agreed by both teams in the presence of the match official before the match commences. In the event that any of the "Game On" principles are not agreed by both teams, then the match shall be played under the normal World Rugby Laws of the Game.

- 11.3 Clubs shall not, unless absolutely necessary, postpone or cancel fixtures due to insufficient player availability or lack of front row players.
- 11.4 Teams will be expected to reasonably adapt to a shortage of player numbers by either team (i.e. play 10, 11, 12, 13 a side etc), and to play, where necessary, with uncontested scrummages, where there are insufficient front row players available to commence or complete a match with contested scrummages.
Where any match commences or is subsequently completed with uncontested scrummages the score at the completion of the match shall be the final result.
- 11.5 As an alternative to uncontested scrummages, by agreement, teams **may** adopt the principle of limited engagement in scrummages whereby scrummages may be contested in the normal manner but neither side may push in excess of 1.5 metres. This must be agreed before kick-off by both teams in the presence of the match referee.
- 11.6 In the event of a player shortage by either team, no match shall commence with either team having in excess of a one player advantage over the opposing team. Equal numbers are preferred.
- 11.7 Team Captains shall agree any sharing of players before kick-off.
Shared players may only return to their original team when
(1) the team with the player shortage reaches the same numbers as the opposition team utilising its own players, or
(2) the opposition team providing the shared player provides a replacement for that player.
- 11.8 All players in a match squad shall play a minimum amount of time equal to one half of the match.
- 11.9 In the event of a match taking place with less than 15 players per team, teams **may** agree to reduce the match duration. This must be agreed by both teams in the presence of the match official prior to kick off. The minimum duration of any match shall be a total of 40 minutes.
- 11.10 Once teams are assembled at the venue for a match, it shall not be within any Clubs permit to agree before kick-off, or at any other time, that a match shall be conceded or not count as a Pennant match.
- 11.11 Once a match has commenced, inclusive of any of the above being agreed, both teams shall be deemed to have agreed that the match shall count as a bona fide Pennant Competition match, and no claim to the contrary by either team will be entertained.

12 CANCELLATION / POSTPONEMENT OF MATCHES

- 12.1 Where any Club with more than one team in The Competition cancels a higher-ranking pennant fixture and on the same day fulfils a lower ranking pennant fixture then the result of the lower ranking pennant fixture shall be deemed null and void and the opposition in both the higher and lower ranking pennant fixtures shall be awarded a walkover win, and the offending Club will be penalised, as specifically detailed elsewhere within these Rules, as if neither match had been fulfilled.
- 12.2 In the event of a match being postponed / cancelled for whatever reason, **BOTH CLUBS should immediately advise the Pennant Secretary** and at the same time advise which Club is unable to fulfil the fixture. Failure to advise postponement or cancellation of a Pennant match shall be deemed to be a failure to return a match result. [See 10.3 above].
- 12.3 A deduction of 5 Pennant Points shall be imposed on any Club cancelling or failing to fulfil a match.
- 12.4 In the event that the first match of the two to be played between the Clubs is cancelled for any reason other than weather, then,
(a) the non-offending team shall be awarded a walkover, and
(b) the scheduled return match shall be played at the non-offending Club's ground (i.e. the club NOT responsible for the cancellation)
- 12.5 In the event that the second match of the two to be played between the Clubs is cancelled for any reason, other than weather, then the non-offending team shall be awarded a walkover.
- 12.6 No Club shall be obliged to re-arrange a cancelled match.
However, if a cancelled match is subsequently re-arranged then **BOTH CLUBS must advise the Pennant Secretary** of the re-arranged date at the time it is agreed.

Failure to notify prior to the match being played will negate any result claimed by either Club and the original walkover result shall stand.

Where a cancelled match is subsequently re-arranged and played by mutual agreement of both Clubs, then any walkover result or points deductions previously recorded shall be cancelled and the match result entered accordingly.

- 12.7 Any Club failing to fulfil a match due, in the opinion of the Organising Committee, to their position in a Pennant Group being unassailable will be deducted 25 Pennant Points plus all bonus points earned throughout the season.
- 12.8 In any event, and notwithstanding the above, for the purposes of awarding points in respect of any un-played match
- (a) no Club responsible for a cancellation shall gain any points whatsoever where a match is cancelled for any reason
 - (b) the Pennant Committee shall have the power to make a decision on the awarding of points which shall be deemed to be final and binding on all parties.

13 LATE CANCELLATIONS

Clubs cancelling fixtures any later than 9.00pm on the Thursday immediately prior to the scheduled fixture date will be subject to a late cancellation financial penalty of £20.00

14 REPLACEMENTS

Any Club in a pennant match may name and use up to 5 replacements. Irrespective of the number of replacements named, replacements may be used on a "rolling" basis utilising not more than a maximum of 10 player interchanges.

NB The "man off" rule does not apply to this competition.

15 KICK OFF AND MATCH TIME

Kick off times shall be mutually agreed by Clubs.

In the event that a kick-off time cannot be mutually agreed

- Daytime matches in September and October shall be 15.00 hrs
- Daytime matches in November, December, January, and February shall be 14.15 hrs (except where Clubs have suitable match floodlighting when it may by agreement be no later than 15.00 hrs).
- Daytime matches in March and April shall be 15.00 hrs
- Evening kick off at any time of the season shall be 19.30 hrs

Half time in all matches shall consist of an interval not exceeding five minutes.

16 NOTIFICATIONS

Where these Rules require the notification of results, cancellations, re-arrangements or any other matter then this shall be

BY BOTH CLUBS by E-mail to kpkrfc@btinternet.com

17 ALL OTHER MATTERS

Any matters not specifically referred to within these Rules and Regulations shall be at the discretion of the Pennant Sub-Committee, whose decision on any matter referred to it shall be final and binding.

END.