

Northern Bank Ulster Schools' Cup and related Competitions

Rules and Regulations 2011-2012

1. Please note that the regulations governing these competitions are published in the Byelaws and Regulations of the IRFU Laws of the game of Rugby Football 2009/2010. Your attention is drawn to the variations applicable to Under 19 Rugby. The circular detailing dismissals is available from the Ulster Branch.
2. A fresh draw will be made after each round.
3. The age limit for the senior competitions is Under 18 on the 1st July 2011 and Under 15 on the same date for the Medallion competitions.
4. Each school shall appoint a Touch Judge who must be an adult, preferably a teacher at the school. Neutral touch judges may be appointed at the discretion of the Schools' Committee Officers (Chairman, Secretary and Branch Representative).
5. Referees for all 1st XV competitions will be appointed by the USRFR and, when possible, for other competitions. The Branch Office should be informed of the venue and time of kick-off for each game as soon as possible. The home school should make contact with the referee to confirm arrangements.
6. Where replays are necessary following a scheduled Saturday match, they must be played on/before the following Wednesday unless by agreement through the Committee Officers (Chairman, Secretary and Branch Representative). A further replay will be played at one of the school pitches with the venue being decided by a toss of a coin.

In the event of a further draw the winners will be decided as follows:

- (i) The team which scores the most tries in the final game.
 - (ii) If still level, then the team who scored the most penalties in the final game.
 - (iii) If still level, then the team who scored the most drop goals in the final game.
 - (iv) If still level, then the team who scored the first try in the final match.
 - (v) If still level, then the team who kicked the first penalty goal in the final match.
 - (vi) If still level, then the team who scored the first drop goal in the final match.
 - (vii) If still level the team who scores the most tries in the 3 games.
 - (viii) If the above fail to differentiate then the toss of a coin by the referee will decide who progresses to the next round. The home side in the first game will be 'heads' and will progress if 'heads' is face up.
7. Application should be made to the Committee Officers/Competition Co-ordinator when two competing schools are in mutual agreement to play their match on a date other than that laid down in the competition schedule.
 8. Any school, which having entered a competition and subsequently withdraws, may be forbidden to enter the following year.
 9. Under the current format there are four competitions at 1st XV and Medallion XV Level, two at 2nd XV Level and two at 3rd XV Level. Entry to 2nd XV competitions requires entry to the Schools' Cup and entry to the 3rd XV competitions requires entry to the 2nd XV competitions.
 10. Schools are asked to ensure that teams and supporters are fully supervised by staff at all times especially when visiting other schools.
 11. Each team is entitled to have eight togged out replacements, all of whom may play. A full front row must be identified from the replacements otherwise the match will be forfeited.

12. The decision of the extent or seriousness of player's injury should be taken by the Team Coach or a Medical Officer, if present.
13. All participating schools are requested to adhere to the Code of Conduct as set out by the IRFU. (Copies available from the Ulster Branch.)
14. In the event of a player being dismissed the Ulster Branch MUST be informed as soon as possible via the Chairman of Schools, John Wilson (028 2827 2791)
15. The 'sin bin' or 'yellow card' is operative in Ulster Schools' Rugby for U18 and Medallion Shield competitions (7 mins for U18 and 5 mins for U15).
16. All matches at U18 level shall 35 minutes each way, and at U15 level 30 minutes each way. Time may be added for injuries. There will be no extra time played.
17. Pupils representing a school must be registered in that school.
18. In the event of a 'clash' of jersey colours the home team must agree to an alternative strip.
19. Schools' may claim for travel to one match during any Cup competition.
20. Only the semi finals of the Schools' Cup and Medallion Shield Competitions will be played at neutral venues. All other semi finals will be played at the venue of the first named school, unless mutually agreed.

Organisational Guidelines

The visiting Team should advise their hosts of the number of buses expected i.e. team and supporters buses.

The hosts should arrange parking for the buses and, if necessary, notify the local police. Health and safety is paramount.

Schools should ensure that there is clear access for Medical assistance e.g. an ambulance can get on the pitch or at least pitch-side if required.

Both schools should ensure that all supporters are supervised by Staff at all times.

A rope to keep spectators away from the touchline should be set up on both sides of the pitch and, if necessary the ends, for all four 1st XV competitions and any high profile Medallion Shield games.

Spectators should respect the opposition and behave accordingly especially during kicks at goal. Verbal abuse should not be directed at opposition players, coaches or spectators and supervising staff should take action to deal with any examples of this behaviour.

Both teams should supply a team list for the referee/press with players numbered and 7 subs identified. (It may be possible to do this through a match programme).

In the event of a drawn replay and where there is insufficient time for a further replay the toss of a coin (by the masters in charge) should be used. (This does not apply to the Schools' Cup and Medallion Shield).

Requests from the sponsors (Northern Bank) should, where possible, be accommodated.

If the game is being televised (you will be advised), BBC would appreciate some 'height' for their camera.

Technical areas should be marked out for coaching teams and substitutes. These should be nine metres long and 3 metres wide and not less than 2 metres from the touchline. In the absence of such areas substitutes must remain behind the roped off area. All substitutes should have bibs of a neutral colour (not track suit tops).

Replacements may only warm up between the 15 metre lines in the in goal area that their team is attacking and must not stay static.