

Regulation, Advice and Guidance Note 16

Sponsor Governance Committee

Approved 11 September 2014

ADULT AND COLTS COMPETITIONS

1601 Description and Aims

Knock-Out Competitions

- 1 These shall be called the "Gales Hampshire Knock-Out Competitions" during the duration of the sponsorship provided by Fuller Smith & Turner plc. There may be up to three competitions known as the Hampshire Cup, Hampshire Bowl and Hampshire Plate respectively.
- 2 The aim of the competitions is to produce winners of the various trophies.

Merit Leagues

- 3 These shall be named the Snows Group Solent League, and the (nominally geographical) Snows Group Hampshire North, South-East and South-West Merit Leagues, during the duration of the sponsorship provided by Snows Group.
- 4 The aims of these competitions are to
 - 1 promote participation in competitive rugby below First XV level and to improve player retention.
 - 2 produce a winner of the Phil Pinnock Cup, which was presented by Havant RFC in memory of their late Club Member, Phillip Pinnock, for the winner of the Solent League.
 - 3 produce a winner of the John Collins Cup, contested by Solent League teams, through a series of pool and knock-out matches.
 - 4 produce winners of the three regional leagues and, from the Merit League winners (and the best placed runner-up from across the leagues) a winner of the Merit League Championship Trophy.

Jersey Rugby Association Competitions

- 5 The aims of the JRA League and the Sugden and MacMillan Cups and the regulations governing these competitions are published by the Jersey Rugby Association and are based largely on what follows.

Colts League

- 6 The aims of the Colts Leagues are to
 - 1 promote participation in competition rugby at the Under 17 to Under 19 age groups and improve player development, enjoyment and retention and to form a bridge between Youth and Senior rugby.
 - 2 produce winners of the Colts League Cup, Plate and Bowl competitions.

General

- 7 All matches shall be played under the laws of Rugby Football (Under-19 Variations are applicable to the Colts League) and comply with the Rules and Regulations of the Rugby Football Union, where appropriate.
- 8 The Union shall provide appropriate Trophies, for all its Competitions. Winning Clubs shall be responsible for the insurance, safekeeping and the engraving of the Trophies. Individual medals will be awarded to the squads (max 26) of the winners of the Colts Trophies.

1602 Definitions

See Regulation, Advice and Guidance Note 2.

1603 Organising Committee

- 1 Both Adult and Colts Competitions shall be organised by the Competitions Sub Committee, which may issue administrative instructions in amplification of this Regulation.
- 2 All communications from Clubs relating to Competitions are to be addressed to the appropriate Organiser whose details shall be promulgated in the Union Handbook.
- 3 Each Club must nominate a Club Official for each Competition who shall be responsible for communication with the appropriate Organiser. The name and contact details of this official must be sent to the Organiser before the beginning of September each year. Communications to Clubs will normally be made only to the Clubs' nominated Official. It is the responsibility of Clubs to ensure these communications are properly actioned.
- 4 Except where otherwise stated, the decision of the Competitions Sub Committee shall be binding and final on any matter not provided for in and on the interpretation of this Regulation. Subject always to appeal - see 1617.3

1604 Eligibility of Clubs and Seeding

Knock Out Competitions

- 1 The Hampshire Cup, Plate and Bowl Knock-Out Competitions shall be open to all Clubs in the County. A Club may enter one team only. The John Collins Cup and Merit Leagues Championship Trophies are subject to the provisions of para. 1601.4 above.
- 2 The Knock-Out Competition is seeded to provide appropriate matches at each level at the discretion of the Sub Committee and normally shall be decided on league positions at the end of the preceding season after promotion and relegation have been effected.
- 3 If a Club declines to take its place in the level allocated in the Knock-Out Competition, or has been suspended from that Competition, it will not be replaced, nor will it be allowed to enter at a lower level. There shall be a bye, or byes, as necessary.

Merit Leagues

- 4 A Club may enter in a Merit League any of their male adult XV's not participating in the RFU Leagues.
- 5 There shall be no automatic promotion or relegation. Clubs will be allocated by the Sub Committee into the most appropriate league to provide as even a competition as possible, within reasonable travelling requirements.
- 6 Not more than one XV of a Club shall be placed in any one Merit League.

Colts League

- 7 A Club may enter more than one team in the Colts Leagues, but the Second, or any subsequent XV from a Club, may only compete for the Colts League Plate.

New Entrants

- 8 Applications from paid-up Associate Clubs from neighbouring counties to join a Merit League or the Colts League will be considered providing this is of benefit to Hampshire's Clubs.

1605 Eligibility of Players

- 1 Only bona fide members of a Club may represent, i.e. either play or be selected as replacements for, the Club in the Hampshire Cup, Plate and Bowl Competitions.
- 2 A Club may not be represented in a match, other than in the Colts League, by a player who has not reached the minimum age set by the RFU for registration for the English Club Championship.
- 3 A Club may not be represented in the front row of the scrum, other than in the Colts League, by a player who has not reached the age of 18.
- 4 A Club may not be represented in the Knock-Out Competition by a loan player or a player who has played for another Club in the Knock-Out Competition in the current season.
- 5 Players in the Colts League must be over sixteen years of age and may be Under 17, Under 18 or Under 19. Under 17 and Under 18 players must be registered as Youth Players, but Under 19 players do not have to be registered as Adult Players. However if the Club intends selecting any player in these age-grades to play in the RFU English Club Championship they must registered as Adult Players. It is recommended that no player should participate in a Colts League match if he has played adult rugby the preceding day.
- 6 Any infringement of 1605.1 to 1605.4 will result in disqualification from a Knock-Out Competition of the player and the Club involved for the season and the Club may be disqualified from the Knock-Out Competition in subsequent seasons. Infringement of RFU Age Grade restrictions will result in Disciplinary proceedings.
- 7 The Sub Committee shall have the power to reinstate a Club, which has been eliminated from the Knock Out Competition by a Club in breach of 1605.1 to 1605.4. This power shall cease to apply at 1800 two days before the Scheduled date of the next Knock-Out Round.
- 8 To meet the aim of retention of players, all Clubs must endeavor to get games played for the benefit of all the players concerned. To achieve this, it is permissible for spare players to be loaned to the opposing Club if it has less than a full XV on the day of a Merit League match.
- 9 If a match is played with such players then the Team Managers must agree beforehand whether the result will count for the Merit League.
- 10 In the spirit of these competitions if more "senior" teams in a Club are not playing then a Merit League team should be selected only after a "notional selection" of the senior team(s) has taken place. The Team Manager/Captain of such a team must advise the opposition Team Manager/Captain before the match if his Club has used players from a more "senior" team and must confirm with his opposite number whether or not he has any objection to the match being classified as "played" for the purposes of the competition. If there is an objection the result of the match shall be declared void and the Organiser shall decide whether competition points are to be awarded to the "non-offending" team.
- 11 Merit Leagues and the Colts Plate League differ in that games may be played with a minimum of ten a side in an attempt to maximize the number of players taking part and to minimize the number of cancellations due to lack of players. Clubs should assist each other to maximize the number of players per side and the referee should be informed before kick-off of the number of participating players when less than fifteen.

1606 Formats

Knock-Out

- 1 The draw for the Hampshire Cup, Bowl and Plate Knock-Out Competitions shall be announced at the Annual General Meeting or at an appropriate Clubs' Meeting. In the case of the Merit Leagues Trophy, the semi finals will be between the winners of the three Merit leagues and the best placed runner up of the three leagues. The draw for these matches and for the final will be made by the Sub-Committee in the presence of a representative from each of the four Clubs concerned if they wish to attend.
- 2 Any Channel Island Clubs shall play off to produce one Club to go through to the Quarterfinals of the Hampshire Cup, Plate and Bowl Competitions.

Merit Leagues

- 3 Matches will be played between all Clubs in each League on a home and away basis.
- 4 Competition points will be awarded as follows: For a win: four points. For a draw: two points. For a loss: Solent League no points; all others one point, provided that the game is played. Failure to participate in a Merit League fixture without a sufficiently acceptable reason, as determined by the League Secretary, shall result in a penalty of four points being deducted from the offending team.
- 5 The position of a Club in a Merit League will be decided on the competition points for the matches played, or awarded. The position of a Club in the Colts League will be decided upon the total of Competition match points awarded.
- 6 If one or more Merit League Clubs have the same total of match points then the difference between points for and against will be used. If this fails to identify the higher placed Club then the results of the games between the Clubs concerned shall decide; then it will be the Club scoring most match points in those games.

The 75% rule determining the position of teams in a league is abolished and team position will be calculated by competition points awarded for the results of matches.

Colts Leagues

- 7 **League position will be decided only on points awarded for a win, loss or draw; if this means, at the end of the season that positions are tied, then there will be joint winners. The removal of points difference is intended to stop teams playing all their best players for the whole game and winning by a huge score to ensure a better place in the league and thus allow more players to actually play in the match.**
- 8 If a match in either League is played under non-standard arrangements as permitted within this Regulation then the Team Managers/Captains must agree beforehand whether the result will count for the Competition
- 9 When the number of Clubs in a League do not provide sufficient competition fixtures, or if a League has two Divisions, then an additional play-off phase may be implemented on completion of the scheduled fixtures; or additional fixtures may be scheduled.
- 10 Any play-off phase will be adjusted accordingly to suit the circumstances year on year and details will be promulgated during the season.

1607 Dates

- 1 All Competition Matches shall be played on the dates published by the Sub Committee.
- 2 Invitations to Clubs to enter the Competitions and the nominated dates will be issued to Clubs in May. Fixture lists for Merit Leagues and will be issued by the Committee to Clubs and the Society as early as possible and normally not later than 31 May each year. Fixture Lists will also specify dates for any play-off phase.

Merit Leagues

- 3 A Club wishing to initiate a change of match date must firstly obtain approval from the Organiser. Once approved the date may then be changed subject to the agreement of the opposition. The initiating Club must then inform the Organiser, the Referees Society Week-End Re-Appointer, the Webmaster and the MLO of the new date.
- 4 Merit League matches shall normally be played on the same day as a First XV league fixture, or in the case of a Third XV match on the same day as a Second XV Competition match. When possible, Merit League fixtures shall mirror League fixtures, especially for clubs visiting the Isle of Wight and providing always that sufficient pitches are available at the home club. Clubs may not cancel matches for reasons other than bad weather and ground conditions and, on the same day, field a team at lower level without first seeking the agreement of the relevant League Secretary. Failure to comply with this

requirement will mean that any league points gained by the team at lower level shall be deducted and an additional four points will be deducted from the offending team.

Colts Leagues

- 5 Scheduled dates for the Colts League shall coincide with weeks designated a "CB Club League Competition" in the RFU Youth Structured Season for both Under 17 and Under 18 age groups; however some may need to be scheduled for a weekend designated as "Club Friendlies". No Colts League matches shall be scheduled for a weekend at the end of a designated "County" week as published in the Youth Structured Season for the Under 17 or Under 18 Age Groups. A postponed game may be re-scheduled unless the teams competing have no representative players at the respective age group or elect to play without them.
- 6 Colts League matches shall normally be played on a Sunday. Matches should only be postponed for weather and pitch conditions. Postponements for any other reason must first be agreed with the League Secretary.

Knock-Out

- 7 Matches in the Competition are normally to be played on Saturdays, although Clubs may play on the Sunday if both are in agreement and have informed both the Organiser and the Referees Society. If it is necessary for two Finals to be played on the same weekend, then the more junior Final shall take place on the Saturday, and the more senior Final on the Sunday. The Sub Committee will try to avoid such clashes.
- 8 While dates for Rounds are chosen to avoid League weekends there may still be a conflict of dates. An RFU Competition (League or Cup) will always take precedence over matches in these Competitions. However if both Clubs and the Organiser agree then a double-header (i.e. league and Cup) is permissible provided that it takes place during the scheduled window for that Round in this competition. In this case the match must be played under the RFU regulations for replacements and registration.
- 9 Clubs are advised that the Saturday of one of the scheduled Competition weekends (except for the weekend of the Cup Final only) may be a "next available Saturday" under the RFU League Regulations. Clubs may be required therefore to play a re-scheduled League game on the same weekend Saturday listed as a match in this Competition. While this may not be accepted by the clubs concerned as a reason to change the weekend, i.e. by their agreement to also play the Cup match on the Sunday, where there is no such agreement and in the interests of player safety every effort will be made by the Organiser to achieve an acceptable solution.
- 10 If a Club wishes to change the Cup or Merit League match date from a Saturday to a Sunday, or vice versa then it must discuss this with its opponents and the Organiser who shall discuss with the Referees Society Appointments Secretary. This is particularly important, and any procedural errors could be very costly, either in League points or financially, when a Channel Island club is involved. The lack of availability of an appropriately qualified referee may cause the Organiser to refuse such a change.
- 11 If the agreement of all parties is obtained the home Club must inform the Society Secretary, the Webmaster and the Media Liaison Officer as soon as the change is agreed and not later than five days before the original or revised date whichever is the earlier. Without agreement being reached the match shall take place on the day nominated.
- 12 If there is any requirement to change the date of a Final, the Organiser will make necessary arrangements and will inform the Society Secretary, the Webmaster and the MLO.

1608 Colours

- 1 In the event of a clash of colours the home team shall change subject to the satisfaction of the referee.
- 2 The jerseys of teams should be numbered to ensure correct identification of players and replacements during a match; however no team shall be penalized for not wearing numbered shirts.

1609 Replacements/Substitutes

- 1 Rolling substitutions are allowed in all Hampshire Competitions in accordance with RFU Regulations for League Matches.

Knock-Out Matches

- 2 This part of this regulation follows that applied to the RFU Senior and Junior Vases; in all Rounds of the Competition eight are permitted.
- 3 In the interest of safety every team in the Competition in all rounds shall have available not less than two replacements or other players on the field capable of playing in the front row of the scrum should replacements be required whether due to injury or consequent upon a player being ordered off or temporarily suspended.
- 4 If on the first or second occasion a front row player requires to be replaced and his team cannot provide a replacement or other player aged 18 or over capable of playing in the front row of the scrum, the Referee, having confirmed this fact with the Team Captain, will order uncontested scrums and the team shall be deemed to have lost the match.
- 5 Subject to the exception in 1609.6 if on the third or subsequent occasion a front row player requires to be replaced and his team cannot provide a replacement or other player aged 18 or over capable of playing in the front row of the scrum, the Referee having made enquiry of the Team Captain, the match shall continue with uncontested scrums and the match score shall stand.
- 6 Where a player is temporarily suspended which creates a third or subsequent occasion that a front row forward needs to be replaced and his team cannot provide a replacement or other player aged 18 or over capable of playing in the front row of the scrum, the Referee having made enquiry of the Team Captain, shall order uncontested scrums but such uncontested scrums shall only continue for the duration of the temporary suspension. The match result will not be deemed to be invalidated by reason of part of it being played with uncontested scrums.

Merit Leagues

- 7 Not more than eight replacements/substitutes are allowed. Matches may start with uncontested scrums if a full front row is not available on either side.
- 8 Uncontested scrums are permitted and will not affect the award of Competition points.
- 9 It is hoped, however, that wherever possible a match will continue to be played with contested scrums so that all the players may gain satisfaction from the game.

Colts League

- 10 **At Plate level there will be no limit on the number of players in a match day squad and no restriction on the number of substitutions that can be made - this is to encourage teams to allow as many players as possible to get playing time. At Cup and Bowl levels teams will agree player numbers prior to the commencement of the game. The number of players in the match day squad does not have to be equal just agreed by both sides. It must also be born in mind that:**
- 11 **Law 3.5(a) is relevant as is the Under 19 variation which states if a team nominates twenty-two players it must have at least six players who can play in the front row (two for each position). If it nominates more than twenty-two then it must have three other players who can play in the second row.**
- 12 **If the numbers cannot be resolved then the maximum number of players for either side shall be twenty-two.**

1610 Kick-off Time

- 1 The Kick-off Time shall be the "Recommended Kick-off Time" as printed on the inside cover of the Handbook. These will also be shown on the Draw Sheet for each Knock-Out Cup Round. The Kick-off Time of any match involving a Channel Islands Club must be adjusted if necessary to accommodate travel arrangements. A Merit League kick-off may be changed with the advance agreement of both captains and the referee.
- 2 Any change to the Kick-off time must be notified by the home Club to the Organiser, the referee and any appointed touch judges(s), the Webmaster and the MLO as soon as the change is agreed by both Clubs, and not later than five days before the original or revised time whichever is the earlier.
- 3 The Cup Organiser will notify the Society Secretary the Webmaster and the MLO of any change to the kick-off time for the Finals.

Colts League

- 4 Notwithstanding 1610.1, the standard Kick-off Time normally will be 1400 to avoid clashes with Mini and Junior Rugby. This can be changed, if necessary, with the prior agreement of both Team Managers and the referee.

1611 Venues and Grounds

- 1 The cost of travel to the Channel Islands and the Isle of Wight is recognised as being far in excess of what equivalent Clubs and their age grade teams might expect to meet in any other County. It is intended therefore that, until such time that regular Rugby Football Union funding is forthcoming, the following restrictions are applied.
- 2 In competitions involving mainland Clubs if the first-named Club to be drawn in a knock-out match, or if the first-named Club in a scheduled Merit League fixture plays its home fixtures on the Channel Islands, the match shall nevertheless be played on the mainland of Hampshire or the Isle of Wight either on the ground of the second-named Club or if the Channel Island Club shall so wish, on the ground of any other Club on the mainland of Hampshire (but not the Isle of Wight). In the latter event all arrangements which are to be agreed with the host Club shall be made by the Channel Island Club which shall be responsible for any ground expenses incurred and shall be at no cost to the host Club involved. The Channel Island Club shall be responsible for all its own travel costs.
- 3 However if the second-named Club agrees then the Channel Island Club may play at home in which case it shall offer to refund the cost of travel to the Island for the mainland Club. Such costs are to be met for a party not exceeding twenty-two players plus three other Club officials. Costs to and from the point of embarkation or dis-embarkation are to be met by the mainland Club.
- 4 No Final, nor any Play-Off, shall be played in the Channel Islands – unless both Finalists or both Clubs in a Play-Off are Channel Island Clubs. A Channel Island Club reaching a Final or a Play-Off shall play on the ground of its mainland opponents even though its semifinal match may be drawn as the venue for the Final; and shall be considered to be the visiting team for the purpose of 1613 unless a neutral venue is used for a Final.
- 5 No Club shall suffer any competition penalty if it is unable to fulfill its commitment to any Hampshire Competition because of financial implications.

Knock-Out Cup Competitions

- 6 Subject to 1611.2 each match is to be played on the ground of the Club drawn first in each tie.
- 7 On completion of the draw for the Semifinals, one match shall then be drawn from the two; the winners of that match shall be at home for the appropriate Final.

Merit Leagues

- 8 Clubs may agree to change the match venue. The Club initiating the change shall be responsible for notifying the change with the appointed referee and informing the Organiser.

General

- 9 Any change of venue must be notified by the original home Club to the Organiser, the Society Secretary and the MLO as soon as the change is agreed by both Clubs, and not later than three days before the date of the match **unless due to adverse ground conditions caused by weather conditions.**
- 10 The Home Club is responsible for correctly and clearly marking its pitch and it must make proper provision for safety as in RAG 15.
- 11 If a late decision (i.e. a decision made or to be made within three hours of the scheduled kick-off time) as to the fitness of the pitch is necessary, it shall be made by the captains (Colts = Team Managers) of the teams concerned. If they are unable to agree the appointed referee shall take into consideration the safety of the players before making the decision.
- 12 At all times there should be easy accessible entry for an ambulance to the pitch and ready access to a telephone (ideally a mobile telephone at pitch side). Home Clubs are strongly recommended to ensure that a doctor or other medically qualified person is present throughout the match. Team Managers must be aware of the ground post code to assist the emergency services.
- 13 Home Clubs are to confirm arrangements with the away Club by 2000 on the Wednesday before the fixture.

1612 Referees and Assistant Referees (Touch Judges)

- 1 The Committee shall notify all Merit League fixtures/dates of Knock-Out rounds to the Society Secretary before 30 June each year.
- 2 The Society shall endeavour to appoint a referee to all matches.
- 3 Each Club entering the Colts League must nominate a Club Referee who has completed at least the National Foundation Course or the Entry Level Referee Award who may be called upon to referee matches in the Competition.
- 4 Where possible and subject to availability the Society shall appoint one touch judge to matches up to and including Knock-Out Quarterfinals. Thereafter the Society shall appoint both touch judges.
- 5 Each Club shall provide a competent touch-judge for each Competition match unless touch judges are appointed by the Society.
- 6 The Home Club shall supply a competent touch judge for matches where the Society has appointed only one touch judge. The home Club shall supply a competent reserve touch judge for matches where the Society has appointed two touch judges.
- 7 The away Club shall supply a competent reserve touch judge for all Knock-Out rounds.
- 8 A Club's touch judge in a Knock-Out match must not be a replacement player; this is relaxed for Merit League matches.
- 9 The normal charge for referees and appointed touch judges shall be levied on the home Club.
- 10 Having confirmed the match arrangements with the visiting Club, the Home Club shall confirm venue, date and kick-off time with the referee appointed by the Society directly by telephone (not by leaving a message on an answer-machine, and not by e-mail as there is no guarantee that the referee will receive either message) by 2100 on the Thursday before the scheduled fixture. The home Club shall also confirm venue, date and kick-off time, when appropriate, with any touch judges appointed by the Society. Clubs are advised that match officials are unlikely to attend if they have not had verbal confirmation.
- 11 If the appointed referee has not arrived by the agreed kick-off time, or if the referee is unable to officiate for the whole of the match, and a replacement referee is available, the Team Managers or Captains of the two teams concerned may agree that a replacement referee may officiate. Such agreement shall be binding on the Clubs and the match result shall stand. In the Knock-Out Competition if the captains are unable to agree the match must be rescheduled or replayed as in 1614.

In a Merit League match if the Team Managers/Captains are unable to agree and the match cannot be rescheduled or replayed then the match shall be declared void.

1613 Drawn Matches

Knock-Out Competition or Merit League Play-Off Phase

If, at no-side, the scores are level, there shall be an immediate period of extra time of ten minutes each way with a one minute interval. If the scores are still level then the team that has scored the most tries shall go forward into the next round. If this does not produce a result then the team that has scored the most goals from tries shall go forward into the next round. If a result is still not forthcoming then the visiting team shall go forward into the next round.

1614 Postponed and Abandoned Matches

Sixty Minute Rule

- 1 If a match is abandoned when sixty or more minutes have been played then the score at the moment of abandonment shall stand.
- 2 The referee's decision as to the necessity for abandonment and the number of minutes played at the time of abandonment shall be final.

Knock-Out

- 3 The only acceptable reason for not playing a Knock-Out match on the stated or agreed weekend shall be unacceptable adverse weather or pitch conditions.
- 4 If conditions prevent a Knock-Out match being played or the match is abandoned because of such conditions, with less than sixty minutes having been played, it shall be played or replayed at the first available date, at the direction of the Organiser.
- 5 In the Final, or a Play-off, if the scores are level at the time of abandonment after more than sixty minutes play then all in 1613 shall apply save for the extra-time. If less than sixty minutes have been played then the match shall be rearranged as in 1614.4.

Merit Leagues

- 6 See 1607.3. If agreement on a date change has not been reached, and if the reason for not playing is outside a Club's control then the Organiser shall consider what action to take. It is the responsibility of the relevant Team Manager to inform by telephone the Organiser, the referee and the opposition if a match is to be cancelled.
- 7 In the event of the unavoidable cancellation of a match because of weather conditions, or if a match is abandoned because of such conditions or because of any other safety or disciplinary reasons before sixty minutes have been played, and the match cannot be re-scheduled it shall be void and no competition points awarded.
- 8 If any other reason for not playing a match is acceptable to the Organiser, and the match cannot be rescheduled, the match shall be void and no competition points awarded.
- 9 If the reason for not playing a match is not acceptable to the Organiser, the non-offending Club will be awarded four points. The match shall be recorded as "not played" against the offending Club and four match points may be deducted. The Organiser will determine any points deduction. No match points will be calculated. If the final position of another Club could be affected by such an award then the match points of a game which actually took place involving the offending Club and the affected Club may be discounted at the sole discretion of the Organiser

Colts Leagues

- 10 In the event of the unavoidable cancellation of a match because of weather conditions, or if a match is abandoned because of such conditions or because of any other safety or disciplinary reasons before sixty minutes have been played, the match shall be void and no competition points awarded.
- 11 The only reason for postponing a match shall be weather conditions, the postponed match must be rearranged within seven days of the cancellation, on one of the vacant league Sundays, and the new date advised to the League Coordinator immediately. If a mutually acceptable new date cannot be agreed then the League Coordinator will decide what action is to be taken.

Late Cancellations

- 12 Regardless of the fact that it may be possible to re-arrange a match, late cancellations cause unnecessary expenses and aggravation not only to the aggrieved Club but also to the Society. If a Club is responsible for a late cancellation, providing this is communicated by telephone directly to the Organiser, the opposition and the appointed referee **before 1200 on Friday**, the match shall be void and no competition points awarded. If a match is cancelled after 1200 on Friday, 1614.9 and 1618.4 apply.

1615 Notification of Results

Knock-Out

- 1 The winning Club shall inform the Organiser of the result of the match within fifteen minutes of the end of the match at the place and/or telephone number specified on the draw sheet.
- 2 Failure to notify the correct result could mean disqualification of the Club concerned in which case their opponents shall proceed to the next round.
- 3 The winning Club shall also inform the MLO. The Organiser will also notify the Press Association of all the results of each round.

Merit Leagues

- 4 The Home Club shall inform the Organiser by telephone or e-mail of the result and scores of the match or of the fact that the match has not been played as soon as possible and certainly no later than 2000 on the Monday following the match
- 5 The Organiser shall provide the results of matches and the latest tables to the MLO, and to the Webmaster for publication on the Hampshire Rugby web site.

1616 Finance

- 1 Each participating Club in the Knock-Out, Merit Leagues or Colts League shall pay an entrance fee, which shall be determined annually by the Governance Committee. This fee will be invoiced at the beginning of the season (with the annual Club subscription).
- 2 The Host Club in the Cup Final is to submit a statement of income and expenditure for the Final to the Organiser within one week of the Final. The statement is to show the income from entrance charges, programme advertisements, programme sales and any collection and a breakdown of the expenditure incurred in programme production, pitch hire and referees' charges. Expenditure is to be supported by receipted invoices where appropriate.
- 3 The Organiser will calculate the net proceeds which shall be divided into equal parts, one share each being paid to the Clubs and the County. All catering is the responsibility of or profit to the host Club.

1617 Protests, Disputes and Transgressions

Eligibility of Players – Knock-Out Matches

- 1 Before the Game

If a Club has a doubt about the eligibility of an opposition player (1605) this must be raised as soon as possible with the opposition Team Manager. If necessary, the concerned Club should refer their protest immediately by whatever means to the Organiser, or to any other member of the Committee who may be present at the game. His decision shall be final and is not subject to appeal. The match result will stand.

2 During or After the Game

If doubt arises during or after the game the concerned Club must refer their protest by whatever means to the Organiser. He shall have discretion to resolve any such protest and shall inform all interested parties of his decision as soon as possible (see 1605.6). This decision may be subject to appeal. The match result may be declared void.

Other Matters in Dispute or Alleged Transgressions of this Regulation.

- 3 Any other matters in dispute or any alleged transgressions of this Regulation must be referred by whatever means to the Organiser within 48 hours of the end of the match. This must be supported by a written complaint which must reach the Organiser and other interested parties within a further 48 hours, setting out the grounds of the complaint in full. The Organiser has the authority to resolve any such complaint and shall inform the interested parties of his decision.

Appeals

- 4 If a Club wishes to appeal against the decision of the Organiser, the appeal must be lodged with the Committee Secretary within 48 hours of receiving the decision and confirmed in writing a further 48 hours. The Committee has the authority to resolve any appeal and the Secretary shall inform the interested parties of the decision.
- 5 If a Club wishes to appeal against the decision of the Committee, the appeal must be lodged with the Executive Director within 48 hours of receiving the decision and confirmed in writing within a further 48 hours. This appeal will be considered by the Management Committee at their next scheduled meeting if time permits or by the Officers if not. Their decision shall be final.

1618 Terms and Conditions of Participation

- 1 Applications for entry to the Competitions are to be forwarded to the Organisers by 30 April (Merit Leagues) or 30 June (Knock-Out) or by the date announced by the Committee and stated on the entry form.
- 2 If any Club, having entered, does not take part in the Knock-Out or, having participated, fails to honour a subsequent fixture in the Competition, then such Club's opponents in the Round as drawn will receive a bye into the next Round of the Competition without prejudice to any further action that may be taken by the Committee.
- 3 A Club withdrawing after the draw for any Knock-Out Round has been made may be fined up to £500, at the discretion of the Committee who may decide to award a proportion of the fine to the non-offending Club.
- 4 A Club withdrawing from a Competition match after **1200 on Friday** shall be responsible for all reasonable and irrecoverable expenses incurred and invoiced by the non-offending Club. Details of timing of cancellation and costs incurred by the non-offending Club are to be passed to the Organiser for approval and sending to the offending Club. The offending Club is expected to pay the costs within one month of receipt.
- 5 If the reason for any withdrawal is not acceptable to the Committee the Club may be excluded from the relevant Competition in the following season or seasons and may be required to pay a bond before any subsequent entry is accepted.
- 6 A Club which withdraws from a match and subsequently plays its team in another fixture on the scheduled date shall be fined on the first occasion and a double fine on any subsequent occasion.

- 7 These fines and the amount of any bond shall be set annually by the Committee and published in the Handbook.
- 8 Any appeal shall be dealt with as in 1617.4 & 5.
- 9 Regulation 1 is also relevant.