

RULES FOR THE SUSSEX KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS (Revised July 2010)

1. The Competition shall be known as the Sussex Knock-out Competitions, and shall consist of two series one of four levels, one of three levels – *Sussex Trophy, The Bob Rogers Cup, Sussex Shield, and Sussex Plate*, and *Sussex Bowl, Sussex Vase and Sussex Salver*. Entry for Clubs allocated to Sussex RFU, or whose main affiliation is Sussex RFU, is voluntary. Applications for new entrants must be received by the Organiser by 1st June of the preceding season.

2. Eligibility is restricted to fully paid-up players registered to the Club, or, where registration is not required, regular playing members.

3. Players in teams below First XV, should be restricted to those regularly appearing for that team, or a lower one, and a player who has played in a higher KO competition during the current season may not play for a lower side in a lower KO competition in the same season. Clubs fielding ineligible players will be withdrawn from the Competition.

4. The County Competitions Committee shall appoint an Organiser(s), who will arrange the Draws, collate the results, and, together with the Chairman of the Competitions Committee, or in his absence, the President or Chairman, deal with any disputes. Subject to the approval by the General Committee, the Organiser shall determine the level at which Clubs enter the competitions, and any necessary byes, seeding or additional rounds. The Management Committee shall, at the request of the Organiser, or in its own right, suspend, apply a playing sanction, or withdraw a Club for misconduct or contravention of the rules. A Club shall have the right to be represented when its case is considered.

5. The draw for the first and preliminary rounds of each Competition will normally be made at the meeting following the AGM. The Draws will consist of all eligible Clubs, excluding those who have opted out, and suspended or seeded Clubs. If a Club subsequently withdraws, the Organiser may, at his discretion, award a bye to the remaining Club or arrange a match with another Club previously given a bye. A Club winning the Plate, Shield, Salver or Vase, shall in the following Season, be placed in the Draw for the next level up, if they do not automatically qualify under the arrangements then in force.

6. Clubs drawn at home shall be responsible for informing the Organiser of the result by 1800 hrs on the Sunday following the match, in a manner as determined by the Organiser. If a home side fails to notify the result in time, the match will be awarded to the away side. Both Clubs shall return results cards by first post, fax or e-mail, on the Wednesday following the match. Failure to return a Match Card will cause the offending side to be deemed to have lost the match.

7. If either team has objections about the ground or the way it is marked out, they must tell the Referee before the match starts. The Referee will attempt to resolve the issues, but must not start a match if any part of the ground is considered to be dangerous. If a Club has complaints about the state of the pitch before the day of the match, it is the Organiser's duty to inspect (or appoint someone else to inspect) the pitch and notify both teams of its suitability. If a Club, drawn at home is unable to play at their ground on the appointed day due to ground or other conditions, they **MUST**:

- a) Contact the Organiser immediately
- b) Find another (neutral) venue
- c) If they cannot, the opposition must be invited to host the match
- d) If the opposition cannot host the match, the home side must, in conjunction with the Organiser, find another ground acceptable to both clubs. The side originally drawn AWAY will retain Away advantage at any NEUTRAL ground, but concede it if they play at HOME.

8. The rules of the RFU Cups (other than Senior Cup) Competitions shall apply in the following areas (*except where specifically amended by these rules*), - **Eligibility, Replacements** (see 9 below), **Colours, Postponed or Abandoned matches, Kick-offs and Delayed arrivals, Grounds**. (Note

especially RFU rules relating to ground safety and keeping the touchline free of spectators, replacements and officials.)

9. (i) In rounds other than the Semi-finals and Final, a maximum of 3, and in the Semi-finals and Final a maximum of 7 replacements are permitted, unless the Teams agree beforehand to vary this number, and so advise the Referee.

(ii) These must include suitably trained and experienced players so that, on the first occasion in rounds other than Semi-finals and Finals, and on the first and second occasion in Semi-finals and finals, (whether due to injury, or consequent to a player(s) being temporarily suspended or ordered off) that a front row player is required to be replaced, the team can play safely with contested scrums.

(iii) If any front row player requires to be replaced and his team cannot provide a replacement or other suitably trained and experienced player, at least 18 years old, from those who started the match, or from the nominated replacements to enable the match to continue safely with contested scrums, the Referee having made enquiry of the captain of the team, (or other such person nominated by the Club) the Referee will order uncontested scrums, and the team will be deemed to have lost the match.

(iv) If on the second occasion in rounds other than Semi-finals and Finals, or the third occasion in Semi-finals and Finals, a front row player is required to be replaced, and a replacement cannot be provided, the game will go to uncontested scrums, and the final result will stand.

10. The RFU KO rules shall apply relating to Drawn matches, **except** that where a result is not determined in a Final, a replay will be held as soon as possible. (*see note 1 below*)

11. The Sussex Society of Rugby Union Referees' shall appoint Referees for all games. Applications should not be made by Clubs except to confirm re-playing of postponed or abandoned games. The home club must advise the Referee as soon as possible, if a match is postponed. Each club must provide a Touch Judge, except where they are provided by the Society and Law 6b shall apply.

12. **Other than in exceptional circumstances, specifically permitted by the Organiser, the only acceptable reason for cancelling a game is for an unfit ground.** Clubs not playing on the designated days (other than with the written permission of the Organiser), or withdrawing from the competition may be subject to sanctions, up to and including, omission from the Draw the following year. Inability to raise a team will not be considered a valid reason.

13. The finalists shall receive trophies and mementos determined by the Management Committee.

14. All Clubs entering the competitions shall be deemed to have accepted the Rules as Published.

Note 1 – (rule 10) RFU regulations state that: In all rounds except the Final, if, after 40 minutes of play each way the scores are level, there shall be an immediate period of extra time between the teams of 10 minutes each way, with a one minute interval. If the scores are still equal, 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 the most goals from tries goes forward to the next round. If the scores still be equal, the visiting team shall go forward to the next round. Please note that Rule 10 provides that, in Sussex, a replay is ordered.