



Report of the RFU Competition Sub Committee on 22nd February 2011

OFFSHORE MEDICAL COVER/TRAVEL FUNDING REVIEW

This was still under review and would be referred to the April Council meeting

UNIVERSITY TEAMS

A review has taken place. Interim recommendations have been made. These would be referred to the RFU legal team and a decision will be published once legal advice had been obtained.

NATIONAL RESERVE TEAM COMPETITION

The National Reserve Team Cup has been shelved for this season because the approval process has not been completed. In order to establish the value of this competition there will be liaison with key stakeholders.

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

Due to fixture congestion at all levels it was decided that the proposed Championship finals on the 7th May 2011 would be suspended.

REGULATIONS

The committee had proposed a suspension of Regulation 13.4.5 which relates to a club being able to seek a postponement of a match if it had 3 or more players selected for a representative game. Loughborough Students had lodged an appeal against the proposed suspension. This appeal was heard on the 17th February when it was decided to allow the appeal and consequently the suspension of the regulation would not be effective.

I expressed concern over the decision and the effect it had on extending the season and the detrimental effect on the clubs in both 2 North and South as they would have up to 5 weeks before a play off took place.

I enquired if there was any way the decision could be reviewed as a matter of urgency but it was confirmed there was not.

TOURNAMENTS AND COMPETITION

1. League

- As of 4 February there have been 7,628 (86.9%) RFU matches played, 174 (2%) postponed, 974 (11.1%) walkovers and 6 abandoned (0.1%). A total of 8,782 matches were scheduled.
- Fixtures in both the Championship and the British & Irish Cup are largely back on track – or will be on schedule. Discussions on the competition structure for 2011/12 are under way. Agreement has been reached to deliver Reserve weeks to minimise the number of mid-week rearrangements. The Celtic unions also welcome the opportunity to reduce the pressure on the season. Rearranged cross-border B&I Cup fixtures are challenging financially and logistically.
- Three further broadcast slots in the Play-Offs have been agreed with Sky.

National Clubs Association



- The Board of Directors has received a report from the Competitions Funding Group and has recommended funding one trip for all teams involved in off-shore leagues. Supporting data has been provided. There's a meeting of the Competitions Funding Group on Friday 25 February.
2. Merit Tables/Local Leagues
 - To date applications have been received from 309 Adult/Age Grade leagues involving 2786 teams.
 3. Cups
 - A recommendation to remove RFU Cups at Levels 7 & Below will be placed before Council in April. To help partially fill the void, we will consider ways to promote CB Cup competitions and undertake consultation on League Champions Finals. Either option could dovetail into the new sponsorship agreement.
 4. County Championships
 - The draft Regulations for the County Championships 2010/11 are with Jonathan Dance. Calculations regarding funding will be finalised in mid-March.
 5. Daily Mail RBS
 - All four tiers of competition are currently on schedule despite the weather resulting in some games being postponed, the U18 Vase may have two delayed Quarter Finals but all others are due to be played in the correct week.
 - The new U15 Vase pool stages have been completed and 3 rounds of knockout have been completed with 8 teams progressing to the Quarter Finals.
 - The pools have been delivered in partnership with CRCs and CSUs and an analysis of key performance indicators as to the success of both the competition structure and delivery mechanism is currently underway.
 - Participation numbers are up in the U15 competition from 563 to 587 and down in the U18 competition from 471 to 453 however the new U15 vase structure is expected to significantly increase the number of matches played within the competition.
 6. AASE League
 - The first AASE league festival was played at Hartpury College on 15 September. 11 out of the 12 AASE establishments participated with each college playing 3 fixtures.
 - The first AASE league festival was again used as a development tool for the Referees department as they provided a team of developing officials to referee the event.
 - After seven rounds 100% of the games have been played to date.
 - The first AASE 7s tournament which will comprise of a 7s 'specialist' competition and a 'Forwards' competition is currently being arranged for the 23rd March.
 - The possibility of playing the league final at Twickenham Stadium is currently being explored, with an alternative of Leicester Tigers also being considered.
 7. National U17 Competition
 - Plan to review the nomination process for the U17 competition through a SWOT analysis carried out as part of the Age Grade Competitions Review.
 - Semi finals venues confirmed as Henley RFC and Doncaster RFC.
 - Negotiations to host the finals at Northampton Saints are ongoing.

National Clubs Association



8. Intra-Mural/Student Competitions

- Through the National Students Development Manager over 30 intra-mural competitions have been created for season 2010/11. A number of these are currently being managed on RF, the rest are being chased. There will be an Intra Mural grand Final held at Twickenham on BUCS day (27th April).

9. Age Grade Competitions Review

- The task group is to be chaired by Ian Elvin and will fall under the auspices of the Community Game Board.
- The terms of reference and makeup of the task group have been written and are awaiting sign off from the task group chairman.

STRUCTURED COMPETITIONS SEASON 2011/12

The structured season was approved by the Committee and would now go to the Governance Committee for ratification. **The structured season for 2011-2012 is attached.**

The date of the next meeting was fixed for 29th March 2011.

Ivor Horscroft
23.02.11