

REGULATIONS FOR NATIONAL U20S CHAMPIONSHIP

National U20s

The U20 Competition shall be called the 'National Under 20 Championship', which shall be between the 29 Constituent Bodies who are invited and agree to play in it comprising the four Regions as follows:

- a. NORTH: Cheshire, Cumbria, Durham, Lancashire, Northumberland and Yorkshire;
- b. MIDLANDS: East Midlands, North Midlands, Leicestershire, Notts, Lincs & Derby, Cambridge University, Staffordshire and Warwickshire;
- c. LONDON & SOUTH-EAST: Eastern Counties, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Middlesex, Surrey and Sussex; and
- d. SOUTH & SOUTH-WEST: Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset & Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Somerset.

The U20 Competition shall be played in accordance with these Regulations.

(A) Competition Aims and Objectives

1. The overall objective of the Competition is to provide a meaningful Competition as part of the development of those players under 20 years of age. In particular its aims are to:
 - (a) establish a competition, which will encourage each Constituent Body to work closely together with all its member Clubs to develop young players and their coaches and thus enable the performance of this partnership to be measured by success in the competition;
 - (b) support both Constituent Body and Club youth development programmes and, in particular, to focus on the further development of young Club players as well as their coaches emerging from the dual Schools/Youth U18 development programme;
 - (c) provide the opportunity for young Constituent Body Club players to test and measure their skills at a representative level above normal Club rugby;

(B) Format of Competition

1. In the Regional Stage of the Competition:
 - (a) Each Region shall decide its own method of producing one semi finalist by weekend **7 April 2012** to enter the draw for the National Knockout Stages;
 - (b) If the Constituent Bodies play each other in a Regional League or Leagues the positions of the Constituent Bodies in each League shall be established by either:
 - (i) awarding two championship points for a win and one point for a draw. In each case of equality of such points, positions shall be determined by placing a Constituent Body with a

larger points difference above a Constituent Body with a lesser points difference, the difference being established by subtracting the match points conceded from the match points scored. If this does not determine the respective positions of the Constituent Bodies concerned then a Constituent Body scoring the most points shall be placed above a Constituent Body scoring the least points; or

(ii) awarding four championship points for a win and two for a draw. In addition, one bonus point will be awarded:

(A) on each occasion it scores four or more tries in a championship match

(B) on each occasion it loses a championship match by seven points or less

- (c) RFU Regulation 13.6.7(a)(ii) shall not apply; instead, if any match in the Regional Stages is abandoned after 60 minutes play the score when the match is abandoned shall stand unless the Committee decides otherwise;
- (d) Should the Referee abandon a match he shall before leaving the field of play advise the captains of each competing Constituent Body of the time played when the match was abandoned.
- (e) Each Region must produce a method for identifying the Semi Finalist in the event that their regional programme is not completed. Such method must include but not be limited to the provisions in RFU Regulation 13.6.11(d) and 13.6.11 (e).

2. National Semi Finalist Stage of the Competition:

- (a) In the Semi Final stage, the names of the four winners of the Regional Stage of the Competition will be placed in a draw. The first drawn team will be the home semi finalist against the second drawn team. The third drawn team will be the home semi finalist against the fourth drawn team.

(C) Competition Dates

1. The Regional matches shall only be played on Sundays or where both Constituent Bodies agree on the corresponding Saturday, or where both Constituent Bodies agree on any weekday, which corresponds to a particular weekend. If no agreement is reached the match shall be played on the Sunday of the weekend.
2. The Semi Finals shall be played on **Sunday 15 April 2012** or where both Constituent Bodies agree on the corresponding Saturday.
3. The Final shall be played on **13 May 2012** between the two winning semi finalists.

(D) Venues

1. In every case (except the Final, which shall be played at a venue to be determined by the Committee) the Constituent Body having home advantage shall decide on which ground a match shall be played.

(E) Eligibility – Players

1. RFU Regulation 13.4 shall not apply.
2. Subject to Regulations (E) 3, 4, 5 and 8 below to be eligible to play in the County U20 Competition, a player:
 - (a) must be under 20 years of age and over 17 years of age on 1st September of the current season (or sixteen years of age as in compliance with RFU Regulation 15.1.4.4; and
 - (b) must qualify to play for a County Constituent Body by:
 - (i) birth (i.e. have been born within the boundaries of the Constituent Body) or;
 - (ii) residence (i.e. actually be residing within the County Constituent Body concerned when he first plays for that County, provided that he has resided therein continuously for a period of three calendar months immediately preceding the date of playing - he shall be held to be actually residing in a County Constituent Body only if his own home or ordinary place of residence, which comprises premises which he ordinarily and regularly uses as his home and in which he ordinarily and regularly uses as a sleeping apartment, be within the boundaries of the County Constituent Body concerned, or having no other home or ordinary place of residence of his own, his parents' or guardians' ordinary place of residence is situated within the boundaries of the County Constituent Body concerned, or being a member of the Services he is stationed in the County Constituent Body, his station counts as residence) or;
 - (iii) being a Regular playing member of a Club allocated to the Constituent Body; or
 - (iv) attending full time a School or a Further or Higher education establishment within the boundaries of the Constituent Body (i.e. actually be attending full time at the start of the competition a School or a Further or Higher education establishment situated within the boundaries of the County Constituent Body). This does not preclude players if an educational vacation coincides with the dates of the Competition or;

CLARIFICATION

A player must be Under 20 years of age and over 17 years of age on 1st September of the current season. Constituent Bodies & Divisions may select a player who is aged 17 (on 1st September of the current season) provided he is suitably skilled, judged capable of playing to this level, and have written permission from his parents/guardians. Players who are aged 17 are still not permitted to play in the front-row of the scrum.

- (c) must qualify to play for a Service Constituent Body by being a Regular member or a Bursar of the Service in question or by being a Civilian playing member of a Club allocated to a Service Constituent Body (subject to a Player's wishes Service Constituent Body sides shall have priority to select eligible players who are Servicemen but a County Constituent Body shall have priority to select Civilian

playing members of a Service Constituent Body Club provided they are eligible to play for the County Constituent Body.)

- (d) must qualify to play for a Student Constituent Body if he is in full time attendance at a University, College or Further or Higher education establishment and a playing member of a Club allocated to the Student Constituent Body. (subject to a Player's wishes Student Constituent Body sides shall have priority to select eligible players who are full time Students.)
3. All players must be eligible to play for England with the exception of Servicemen. A player is eligible to play for England if:
- (a) he was born in England; or
 - (b) one or more parents or grandparents was born in England; or
 - (c) he has completed thirty-six consecutive months of residence in England immediately preceding the time of playing.
4. Any player who has played for an England U20 XV, England U18 XV, England Students XV or England Universities XV English Colleges XV and /or is selected as a member of their match day squads at any stage during the season, immediately ceases to be eligible to play in the National U20 Championship for that season. Any player who has played for or who is selected as a member of the match day squads of a comparable team for another Nation at any stage during the season immediately ceases to be eligible to play in the National U20 Championship.
5. Constituent Bodies may not select as a member of their match day squads any player who has been selected as a member of the match day squad of another Constituent Body during the same season. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes substitutes who may not even be called upon to play.
6. Any Constituent Body whether before a match or within 48 hours of the end of the match was played, which receives an official complaint (whether verbal or otherwise) regarding the qualification of one of its players, must report the facts to the Committee within 48 hours by writing to the RFU (Tournaments & Competitions Department). The complaining Constituent Body must also within 48 hours of making the complaint report the details on which it bases it to the Committee by writing to the RFU and to the Constituent Body against which it is making the complaint. If the Committee upholds the complaint regarding the qualification of a player where the complaint is made before the match is played and the player plays, the Constituent Body concerned shall lose the match in which the unqualified player has participated by a score of 20 points to nil being four unconverted tries (unless such Constituent Body was actually defeated by a greater points difference in which case the result of the match will stand.) and suffer such further sanction as the Committee may in its absolute discretion impose. In any other case where a complaint is upheld the Committee shall impose such sanction (or sanctions) as it may in its absolute discretion see fit. In making any complaint time is of the essence. The Committee shall not

be entitled to consider any complaint received unless the time limits imposed by and the procedures set out in this Regulation have been adhered to by the complaining Constituent Body.

7. Any player who has played for a Constituent Body in the Under 18 or U19 Championships in previous seasons and who so qualified to play for that Constituent Body under any earlier Regulations (as to eligibility) relating to those Competitions shall continue to be eligible for that Constituent Body until he qualifies and plays for another Constituent Body under this RFU Regulation 13.12.
8. No Player who has entered into a Contract with a Club which is playing in the Championship or the Premiership is eligible.

Note: Please refer to RFU Regulation No 1 for definition of a Contract which includes an Academy Contract

(F) Notification of Match Results

1. The home team shall fax completed form to RFU Tournaments & Competitions Department (Fax: 020 8892 4446) not later than 5.00pm for an afternoon kick-off or by 10.00pm for an evening kick-off. The result of match must also be notified to 1st XI Sport (Tel: 0845 226 0411, email: rugby@firsteleven.co.uk) not later than 5.00 pm for an afternoon kick-off or by 10.00 pm for an evening kick-off.