

APPENDIX 1 TO RFU REGULATION 13

COUNTY COMPETITIONS REGULATIONS 2011/12

(A) Name

The Competitions shall be called the County Championship Cup (hereinafter called ‘The Bill Beaumont Cup’) and the County Championship Shield or such other name or names incorporating the name of a sponsor as the RFU shall determine.

(B) Definitions

In these County Competitions Regulations

“Player Interchange” shall mean:

any circumstance in which a player on the field of play is replaced by a player from the replacements (which shall include any player who has previously taken part in the match and is permitted to resume playing) to include but not be limited to

1. the replacement of a player removed from the field of play due to an open wound as is required under Law 3.11 (a)
2. the return of a player previously removed from the field of play under Regulation (B) 1 above where he replaces a player on the field of Play
3. the replacement of any player where a front row player has been temporarily suspended from the field of play (yellow card)
4. the return of a player previously removed from the field of play under Regulation B (3) above where he was replaced in the front row

“Residence” for a full time bona fide student whilst attending a recognised educational establishment shall mean either his permanent home address or his (for the time being) student accommodation address;

In addition except where the context otherwise requires or permits, the words and expressions listed in the Definitions set out in RFU Regulation 1 shall bear the meanings given to them therein.

(C) Format of County Competitions

1. The Bill Beaumont Cup shall be contested between the 14 counties listed in Appendix A to these Regulations. The 14 counties will be split into two divisions namely Division 1 containing eight teams as listed in Appendix A to these Regulations and Division 2 containing six teams as listed in Appendix A to these Regulations. The eight teams in Division 1 will be split into two pools of four namely Division 1 N and Division 1 S. The six teams in Division Two will be split into two pools of three namely Division 2 N and Division 2 S.

2. (i) Each team will play the other teams in its pool once only either at Home or Away;

- (ii) The winners of each pool in Division One will contest the final of the Bill Beaumont Cup
 - (iii) The bottom team in each pool in Division One shall be relegated to Division Two (subject to its applying to enter the Bill Beaumont Cup the following season)
 - (iv) The winners of each pool in Division Two shall contest the Division Two Plate final and be promoted to Division One (subject to its applying to enter the Bill Beaumont Cup the following season)
3. The County Championship Shield shall be contested between the 14 counties listed in Appendix B of these Regulations and will be divided into four pools (two pools of three and two pools of four) as set out in the said Appendix B to these Regulations.
- (i) Each team will play the other teams in its Pool once only, either at home or away;
 - (ii) The winners from each Pool will contest the semi-finals; and the winners of the semi-finals will contest the final of the County Championship Shield
 - (iii) There will be no promotion or relegation from the County Championship Shield.
4. All matches shall be played in accordance with IRB Laws and Regulations, RFU Rules and Regulations insofar as they are applicable save where such RFU Regulations are in conflict with these County Competitions Regulations in which event these County Competitions Regulations will prevail.
5. The Committee will determine the composition or changes to the composition of all the pools, the fixture schedule, the draws and venue for the County Championship Shield Semi Finals and the venue for the Bill Beaumont Cup Division Two Plate Final as it sees fit.
6. In pool matches the winner of each match will receive 4 Competition Points. If a match is drawn, each team will receive 2 Competition Points. Teams will receive 1 Bonus Competition Point if it scored 4 or more tries in a match. Teams will receive 1 Bonus Competition Point if it loses a pool match by 7 match points or less. The winner of the pool will be the County with the most Competition Points after all matches in the pool have been played, or as the Committee shall decide. In the event of two or more Counties having the same number of Competition Points, the final positions within each pool shall be determined by applying the provisions of sub paragraphs (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), (vii), (viii), (ix) and (x) in the Definition of Best Runner Up.

(D) Eligibility of Players & Teams

1. Subject to Regulations D(2) and D(3) below and in accordance with Schools & Youth Regulations 2.2 and 2.3 a player may only play in the County Competitions for a County in which:
- (i) he was born; or
 - (ii) he has completed not less than 6 months Residence within the County concerned in the preceding 12 months; or

- (iii) has played for a County in a previous County Competition or National Under 20 Championship and who was qualified to play for that County under the Regulations then in effect. Any such player shall remain eligible to play for that County until such time as he qualifies for and plays for another County in any of the Competitions or the National Under 20 Championship. The only exception to this criterion is where the player was eligible for a County under Regulation D2 below; or
 - (iv) being an Effectively Registered Player of a Club allocated to the Constituent Body on the date of the match.
2. In the Bill Beaumont Cup where the County for which the Player qualifies in accordance with Regulation D(1) is in the County Shield he shall be eligible to play in the Bill Beaumont Cup if he holds Effective Registration with a Club at Level 4 or above in the County concerned. For the avoidance of doubt no player may qualify for a County under this Regulation if he is already eligible for a County participating in the Bill Beaumont Cup pursuant to Regulation D(1). Eligibility under this criterion will only apply for the current Season. A player selected by a county in the Bill Beaumont Cup is not eligible for selection by that county the following Season under Regulation D(1)iii.
3. With the intention that players playing in the County Championship Shield are not at a higher level than that ordinarily playing Level 5 and below a Player will be ineligible to play in the County Shield if at any time during the Season or during the course of the competition he:
- (i) had Effective Registration with a Club whose 1st XV plays at Level 4 and above or had played in the 1st XV for such a Club
 - (ii) had played for or under the rules and/or regulations of that union been eligible to play for a club or team in a union other than the RFU of an equivalent level or standard to a Club referred to in Regulation 3 (i) above
 - (iii) was or had been a Loan Player from a Club whose 1st XV plays at Level 4 or above
 - (iv) had or had been in the Season or the previous twelve months selected to be a member of the match squad for England, England Saxons, England Under 20s, England Students, the England Sevens, the Combined Services, the Barbarians or any national representative team of another Union
 - (v) had entered into a Contract with a Club whose 1st XV plays at level 4 or above or received any benefit in kind from any such Club or person firm or company connected with such a Club the consideration for which or part of the consideration for which was that the Player was available for selection for or played for the said Club or at its direction.
 - (vi) is ruled ineligible by the Committee.

Note: It is the County's responsibility to comply with the letter and the spirit of this Regulation 3. If a County has any doubt that a player may be eligible it should ask the Committee for a ruling before the player plays. If a player is ruled ineligible after he has played a County will be liable to severe sanction.

4. No player or named replacement attending on the day of a match may represent more than one County in a Season.
5. A County shall not play or select as a replacement or substitute more than three non-EQPs in any County Competition match.

(E) Replacements

1. Subject to Regulations (E) 2 to 8 hereunder replacements and substitutes are permitted in accordance with iRB Law 3 and Regulations and RFU Rules and Regulations relating thereto.
2. The number of replacements and substitutes shall not be more than seven, with five players in the match squad being able to play front row.
3. Each team shall be permitted no more than twelve Player Interchanges in each match.
4. After twelve Player Interchanges have been made no other replacements, substitutions or Player Interchanges will be permitted for any reason including injuries and in the event that a player is injured the team will play with one less player and with uncontested scrums in the event that this involves a front row player and the game cannot continue safely with contested scrums.
5. Player Interchanges may only occur during a stoppage in play and with the knowledge of the Referee who is entitled in his sole opinion to refuse to allow or postpone a Player Interchange if he believes either that the Player Interchange would prevent the opposition from restarting the game quickly or where a player has been injured or that it would not be safe for the replacement player who has been previously injured to play in the match.
6. A player who is a replacement shall not be entitled to take a kick at goal until a passage of play has taken place since he has taken the field of play.
7. A player who suffers two injuries in a match which has necessitated his being replaced on each occasion is not permitted to act as a replacement following his second injury.
8. Where this Regulation E conflicts with iRB Law 3.4, 3.7, 3.8, 3.10 and 3.12 this Regulation shall take precedence.

(F) Front Row

1. With the exception of those Players who fall within RFU Regulation 15.1.4.4 (b) (who are aged seventeen) no player may play in the front row of the scrum during contested or uncontested scrummages in adult rugby until he has reached his eighteenth birthday. Any breach of this Game Regulation shall be considered a serious breach and may give rise to a severe penalty.
2. In the interest of safety each team must have at least five players in their nominated match squad, all at least eighteen years old (unless they are a player falling within RFU Regulation 15.1.4.4 (b)), who are suitably trained and experienced to be capable of playing in the front row to ensure that on the first or second occasions (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 continue to play safely with contested scrums.

3. Subject to E(4) above and (F)5 below if on any occasion other than a temporary blood injury uncontested scrums are ordered by the Referee having made enquiry of and having confirmed with the captain of the team (or such other person nominated by the Club as the manager or other person responsible for the team) there is no suitably trained and experienced front row replacement in accordance with (F)1 & (F)2 above due to injury, temporary exclusion (ie following a yellow card) or permanent exclusion (ie following a sending off)), the team concerned shall not be entitled to replace the player whose departure caused the uncontested scrums. On return to the field of play of a front row player who has been temporarily excluded the Match shall continue with contested scrums provided that it is safe to do so. Subject to (F)6 below the result of the match shall stand.
4. Subject to E (4) above and (F)5 below where due to a temporary blood injury in a Match uncontested scrums are ordered by the Referee having made enquiry of and having confirmed with the captain of the team (or such other person nominated by the Club as the manager or other person responsible for the team) there being no suitably trained and experienced front row replacement in accordance with (F)1 & (F)2 above the team concerned shall be entitled to replace the player whose departure caused the uncontested scrums. In the event that the temporarily injured player has not returned to the field of player within fifteen (15) minutes so that the match can be safely played with contested scrums the referee must declare that scrums will be uncontested for the remainder of the match and will ask the team captain from the team which has failed to provide a suitably trained replacement to immediately remove from the field of play one player so that the match is concluded with the team failing to provide a suitably trained and experienced front row replacement comprising 14 players. Subject to (F)6 below the result of the match shall stand.
5. In the event that in any Match to which these regulations apply the game is being played with uncontested scrums pursuant to regulation (F)3 and/or (F)4 above two players from one team having been removed from the pitch and a third occasion occurs where due to injury, permanent or temporary exclusion or temporary removal for a blood injury of or to a front row forward from that team the result will stand subject to (F)6 below.
6. If a Match is completed with or contains uncontested scrums, the County that was responsible for causing uncontested scrums must upon the request of the Organising Committee provide to it such information as it may require including if requested a medical report identifying the injuries sustained by its front row players if the County Doctor or other qualified person had attended the Match. The Organising Committee may take such action it deems appropriate (including altering the result or ordering a replay of the Match) in respect of any suspected, alleged or actual breach of this Regulation (F) as it shall decide and shall notify all Counties. Any County may appeal against the decision of the Organising Committee in accordance with RFU Regulation 13.10.10.

(G) Grounds

1. Except in the Finals the home County is responsible for correctly and clearly marking its pitch, and must make proper provision to ensure that (with the exception of the touch judges, the fourth official, the medical staff and water carriers who shall be limited to two in addition to the medical staff) all spectators, replacements coaching staff and officials are kept behind a permanent or semi permanent pitch perimeter barrier at a reasonable distance from the field of play and make provision for two areas one for each team) each not exceeding 10 square metres (each of which when occupied will not in any way impede a touch judge undertaking his responsibilities) to be clearly designated between the touchline and any perimeter or pitch side fencing or other barrier as being that to which medical staff and water carriers when not attending to their duties as permitted by the referee are to be restricted during the match.

2. Participating Counties in a match must ensure that team replacements and coaches are behind any perimeter or pitch side fencing or other barriers during all periods of playing the match.
3. A decision as to the fitness of the ground for playing a match must be made as early as realistically possible having regard to the travel and other commitments of the visiting County. If a County wishes to cancel a match because of ground conditions on the day before the match is scheduled to be played the Referees Department at Twickenham should be contacted to arrange a pitch inspection. When a late decision (ie a decision made or to be made within three hours of the scheduled kick-off time) as to the fitness of a ground for the playing of a match is necessary, it shall be made by the respective captains of the Counties involved, but if the captains are not able to agree, the decision as to the fitness of the ground shall be made by the appointed Referee.

Note: The referee is only required to give an opinion as to whether or not a ground is fit to be played upon. If the referee has given his decision and a team declines to play on a ground the referee has declared fit that shall be the decision of the team concerned and not that of the referee.

(H) Un-played Matches

1. RFU Regulations 13.6.6 and 13.6.7 shall not apply to County Competitions.
2. If conditions prevent any match (except any of the Finals) being played or a match is abandoned because of such conditions before full time, the Referee shall indicate on the Match Result Sheet the score at the time and reason for abandonment and the number of minutes played. The Committee shall determine whether the match is to be played or replayed or whether any score shall decide the result and its decision shall be final and binding. Each county must submit in writing to the RFU Competitions Manager, within 48 hours of the end of the match, any representations they wish the Committee to consider in making its decision.
3. If conditions prevent the Finals of the Competitions being played the Committee shall determine whether or not the same shall be played and if so upon what date and at which venue and such decision shall be final and binding.
4. The referee's decision as to the necessity for abandonment and the number of minutes played at the moment of abandonment shall be final

(I) Kits

In the event of Counties having clashing or similar colours; the home team shall be responsible for changing its colours subject to the satisfaction of the appointed Referee or his nominee.

(J) Notification of Match Results

In all matches both teams shall complete and sign the Match Result Sheet provided by the RFU. The home team shall fax the completed form to the RFU (or as it directs) within 90 minutes of the final whistle. Additionally, (if so directed by the RFU) the home shall telephone the result to whomsoever the RFU specifies as soon as reasonably practical after the whistle.

(K) Finance

1. The Committee shall notify the relevant Counties of its decision regarding funding and distribute monies in its absolute discretion as it considers appropriate for the benefit of the Counties.

2. In all matches other than the Final, Gross Gate Receipts (which shall be the total of all monies received from admissions, car parking and programme sales) to a ceiling of £5,000.00 shall be shared, to help offset the cost of the away team, 70% for the home County and 30% for the away County. Any Gross Gate Receipts in excess shall belong to the home County.

(L) Miscellaneous

The ticket allocation shall be as follows:

1. One third of each ticket category provided the away County advises if its requirements the home County at least six days prior to the match, or in the case of a semi-Final match within three days of the participating Counties being known and
2. Complimentary tickets shall be limited to 25 for each County for its players and replacements and 30 for each County for its Committee Members and its official guests.

Appendix A: Bill Beaumont Cup 2011/12

	Wk 1 05-May-12	Wk 2 12-May-12	Wk 3 19-May-12	Wk 4 27-May-12
Division 1S				<u>Final</u>
Hertfordshire	Hertfordshire	Hertfordshire	Gloucestershire	Pool 1S Winner
Gloucestershire	v North Midlands	v Cornwall	v Hertfordshire	
Cornwall	Cornwall	North Midlands	Cornwall	
North Midlands	v Gloucestershire	v Gloucestershire	v North Midlands	
				v
Division 1N				
Lancashire	Lancashire	Yorkshire	Lancashire	Pool 1N Winner
Cheshire	v Northumberland	v Lancashire	v Cheshire	
Yorkshire	Cheshire	Cheshire	Northumberland	
Northumberland	v Yorkshire	v Northumberland	v Yorkshire	
Division 2S				
Kent	Somerset	Bye	Kent	Pool 2S Winner
Somerset	v Devon	v Somerset	v Somerset	
Devon	Kent	Devon	Bye	
	v Bye	v Kent	v Devon	
				v
Division 2N				
Durham	Durham	Bye	Eastern Counties	Pool 2N Winner (Home venue of 2S Winner)
Eastern Counties	v Warwickshire	v Durham	v Durham	
Warwickshire	Eastern Counties	Warwickshire	Bye	
	v Bye	v Eastern Counties	v Warwickshire	

Appendix B:
County Championship Shield
2011/12

	Wk 1 28-Apr-12	Wk 2 05-May-12	Wk 3 12-May-12
Pool 1			
Cumbria	Cumbria v Staffordshire	Cumbria v Bye	Notts, Lincs & Derby v Cumbria
Notts, Lincs & Derby	Notts, Lincs & Derby v Bye	Staffordshire v Notts, Lincs & Derby	Bye v Staffordshire
Staffordshire			
Pool 2			
Essex	Leicestershire v Essex	Essex v East Midlands	Buckinghamshire v Essex
Buckinghamshire	East Midlands v Buckinghamshire	Leicestershire v Buckinghamshire	East Midlands v Leicestershire
East Midlands			
Leicestershire			
Pool 3			
Dorset & Wilts	Oxfordshire v Dorset & Wilts	Dorset & Wilts v Bye	Dorset & Wilts v Berkshire
Berkshire	Berkshire v Bye	Berkshire v Oxfordshire	Bye v Oxfordshire
Oxfordshire			
Pool 4			
Surrey	Surrey v Sussex	Surrey v Hampshire	Middlesex v Surrey
Middlesex	Middlesex v Hampshire	Sussex v Middlesex	Hampshire v Sussex
Sussex			
Hampshire			