



**RFU**

**AASE  
COMPETITION  
REGULATIONS  
2011/12**

# **RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION U18 AASE LEAGUE 2011/12**

## **COMPETITION REGULATIONS**

### **1. Description and Form**

- 1.1 The Competition shall be called the Rugby Football Union (RFU) AASE League.
- 1.2 All matches must be played in accordance with the iRB Laws and Regulations and Rugby Football Union Rules and Regulations, with particular reference to Under 19 variations specific to each Age Grade.

### **2. Competition Organisation**

- 2.1 The Competition will be organised by the Tournaments & Competitions Department of the RFU.
- 2.2 Each season an Organising Committee of three will be established to manage the successful delivery of the Competition as set down in Regulations 2.3 – 14. The National Schools & Youth Disciplinary Secretary (NSYDS) will oversee and manage disciplinary processes and appeals relating to this Competition.
- 2.3 The Organising Committee shall have discretion to decide on matters not provided for in (and in the interpretation of) these Regulations in the context of the Competition. This discretion shall include the interpretation of these Regulations in accordance with the underlying principles and intent (insofar as it can be ascertained) of the relevant regulation and the interests of the game.
- 2.4 In the discharge of its responsibilities the Organising Committee may further delegate some or all of the powers contained within the apposite Regulations to any individual member(s) of the Organising Committee or staff member(s) of RFU Tournaments & Competitions Department.
- 2.5 If any interested party requires clarification of any of these Regulations, such queries must be submitted to the Organising Committee in writing to:

RFU AASE League  
Organising Committee  
c/o Tournaments & Competitions Department  
Rugby Football Union  
Rugby House  
Twickenham Stadium  
200 Whitton Road  
Twickenham  
TW2 7BA

### **3. Eligibility of Schools/Colleges**

- 3.1 The Competition will be open to all Schools/Colleges in England that provide an Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE) programme in Rugby Union.
- 3.2 Educational establishments will only be allowed to enter at the discretion of the Organising Committee.

#### 4. **Competition Format**

- 4.1 The Organising Committee will determine the precise structure of the Competition once the number of participating teams is known. There will be 2 stages – the Pool stage and the Play Off stage.
- 4.2 In the Pool stage, teams will be divided into 2 pools based on geography with teams playing each other on a home and away basis.
- 4.3 League points will be awarded as follows:  
4 points will be awarded for a win  
2 points will be awarded for a draw  
1 point will be awarded to a team that loses a match by 7 points or less  
1 point will be awarded to a team scoring 4 tries or more in a match  
1 point will be deducted for failing to submit a team sheet in accordance with regulation 12 after each match.
- 4.4 The position of each team within the pool will be determined by:  
a) league points,  
b) match wins,  
c) match points difference,  
d) match points for.

In each of a)-d) above, the team with the greater league points, match wins, positive match points difference or positive match points for will be placed higher than any team with fewer league points etc. In the event that, having applied a)-d) above, two teams are still equal, the position will be determined based on the team achieving the greater number of try bonus points or by applying a) to d) to the matches involving the two teams.

- 4.5 In the Play Off stages, the top seeded team in each pool will play at 'Home' to the runner up in the opposite pool. Likewise, the 3<sup>rd</sup> placed team in each pool will play at 'Home' to the 4<sup>th</sup> placed team in the opposite pool, and the 5<sup>th</sup> placed team in each pool will play at 'Home' to the 6<sup>th</sup> placed team in the opposite pool. In the event that a team cannot fulfil their play off fixture, their place will be offered to the next best placed team. The winners of all semi finals will proceed to the finals.
- 4.6 Any School/College conceding a match will face sanction by the Organising Committee.

#### 5. **Eligibility of Players**

- 5.1 Players must be under 18 years of age at Midnight on the 31 August/1 September 2011 to be eligible for the Competition unless permission is granted by The RFU Head of Elite Player Development and ensuring:  
a) in accordance with Schools & Youth regulation 2.5 the player in question has not yet reached his 19<sup>th</sup> Birthday.  
b) the player in question will not play with or against an U16 age grade player.  
c) no team includes more than 2 U19 players in their match day squad of 22.
- In addition, Regulation 2 (b) (Age Grades and Applicable Variations) of the Schools & Youth Regulations will apply to the Competition.

5.2 For avoidance of doubt, a team may not play or select as a replacement or substitute an U16 player within their team if an U19 player plays or is selected as a replacement or substitute for any team in the same match.

5.3 Players taking part in the Competition must be on the roll and in attendance at the participating School/College on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

## **6. The Draw**

6.1 The first named team in the draw is the Home team and the second named team is the Away team irrespective of where the game is played.

## **7. Match Management**

7.1 Apart from the Play Offs and Final, the Home team is responsible for arranging the fixture at a suitable venue.

7.2 Matches must be played in the regulated week as published in the Youth Structured Season. Should this not be possible the Home team must contact the Tournaments & Competitions Department to apply for dispensation to play on an alternative date, subject to agreement from the Organising Committee.

7.3 The Organising Committee retains the right to specify the date and Kick Off time for any match in the Competition.

7.4 The best possible venue must be used and where appropriate every attempt made to rope off the pitch.

*Note: Both teams must control their spectators. The tension of a competitive league game is not an excuse for abuse from the touchline towards players or officials.*

7.5 Matches will be 35 minutes each way. Half-time will be 5 minutes, with both teams staying on the Field of Play.

7.6 Should a fifty point differential occur at any time during a match, then the Referee will end the match and the result at that time will stand.

7.7 The Home team must advise the referee that their appointment is to an RFU AASE League fixture and advise him/her of the Competition Regulations and U19 Law variations.

7.8 Where a match has not been played or the result of a match remains unresolved, the Organising Committee may, in its sole discretion, determine which team (if any) will progress in the competition(s). This power will only apply to situations where there is no other opportunity to play/replay a match and the successful delivery of the competition is at risk.

7.9 The Play Offs will be played at a venue to be determined by the Organising Committee.

7.10 The Finals will be played at a venue to be determined by the Organising Committee.

## **8. Replacements / Substitutions (see Under 19 Variations)**

- 8.1 The number of replacements and substitutes in all matches shall be no more than seven.
- 8.2 Rolling Substitutions are permitted in all RFU AASE League matches. A player who has been substituted may later replace any player, whether or not that player has been injured.
- 8.3 In the interest of safety each team must have at least six players in their nominated match squad who are suitably trained and experienced to be capable of playing in the front row to ensure that on the first, second or third 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.
- 8.4 If on any occasion a front row player requires to be replaced and his team cannot provide a replacement or another player suitably trained and experienced 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 and having confirmed this fact with the Manager of the team (or such other person nominated by the School/College as the person responsible for the team), the match will continue with uncontested scrums and (subject to Regulation 7.6 below) the final result will stand.
- 8.5 In the unusual event that a Referee decides to continue the game with uncontested scrums on the grounds of safety, because he cannot safely manage the scrums otherwise, the final result will stand.
- 8.6 The Organising Committee may review the circumstances in every case where a match is completed with uncontested scrums.
- 8.7 Temporary Absence during match

Where during a match,

(i) a player is temporarily suspended from the field of play (which includes a blood injury) and that suspension results in a replacement on any occasion, and his team cannot provide a replacement or suitably trained and experienced player to enable the match safely to continue with contested scrums; and

(ii) the Referee has made enquiry of and confirmed this fact with the Manager of the team (or such other person nominated by the School/College as the person responsible for the team); then the match shall continue with uncontested scrums only for the duration of the temporary suspension. The match result will be unaffected.

## **9. Drawn Matches**

- 9.1 There will be no extra time in any round.
- 9.2 In the Play Offs in the event that the scores are level at the end of the match, the winner will be:

the team scoring the most tries or if that fails to produce a winner  
the team scoring the most goals from tries.

- 9.3 In the Play Offs, if the application of Regulation 9.2 fails to produce a winner, then the winner of the match will be determined by a Place Kicking Competition (see Regulation 9.5).
- 9.4 In the Finals, Regulation 9.3 will not apply. If the application of Regulation 9.2 fails to produce a winner, then the trophy will be shared.
- 9.5 Place Kicking Competition
- 9.5.1 Each team shall nominate three (3) players from its number on the field of play at the final whistle to participate on its behalf in a place kicking competition.
- 9.5.2 Each kicker in turn shall attempt a place kick, alternating between the team that kicked off and their opposition until all six (6) kickers have kicked at goal. At the end of each sequence of six (6) kicks the team that has scored the most goals will go through. For all attempts the same ball will be used.
- 9.5.3 The first kick shall be taken by the team that Kicked-off at the commencement of the match. The attempts will be taken from the following positions in turn, repeating the sequence until a decision is reached: -
- a) the intersection of the 22-metre line and the centre of the 22-metre line
  - b) the intersection of 22-metre and 15-metre lines to left of posts facing
  - c) the intersection of 22-metre and 5-metre lines to left of posts facing
  - d) the intersection of 22-metre and 15-metre lines to right of posts facing
  - e) the intersection of 22-metre and 5-metre lines to right of posts facing

## **10. Postponed or Abandoned Matches**

### **10.1 Weather Conditions (including bad light)**

#### **10.1.1 Postponed Match**

If weather conditions (including bad light) prevent a match being played then the match will be played at a later date unless the Organising Committee exceptionally, and in its absolute discretion, agrees/specifies otherwise.

#### **10.1.2 Abandoned with Less than 50 minutes played**

If the match is abandoned because of the weather conditions, (including bad light), when less than 50 minutes have been played, then the match will be replayed unless the Organising Committee exceptionally, and in absolute discretion, agrees/specifies otherwise.

#### **10.1.3 Abandoned with 50 or more minutes played**

If a match is abandoned because of weather conditions, (including bad light), when fifty or more minutes have been played, then the score at the moment of abandonment shall stand and be deemed the final score in the match. The Referee's decision as to the necessity for abandonment and the number of minutes played at the moment of

abandonment shall be final.

## 10.2 **Other Reasons**

If the Referee finds it necessary to abandon a match for any reason other than weather conditions, (including bad light), then, irrespective of the number of minutes played, the result of that match shall be reviewed by the Organising Committee. On receipt of the appropriate Referee's report the Organising Committee may order the match to be replayed and/or impose such other sanction as it deems appropriate. The Referee's report must be submitted on why play was curtailed.

## 11. **Notification of Results**

11.1 The Home team must inform the Tournaments & Competitions Department (*see contact numbers below*) within 24 hours of the end of the match.

### 11.2 **Contact numbers at the Tournaments & Competitions Department:**

RFU AASE League – Tom Price

Tel: 0208 831 6784

Email: [tomprice@rfu.com](mailto:tomprice@rfu.com)

Fax: 0208 892 4446

## 12. **Team Sheets**

12.1 The 'Home' side in every round of the competition **must** complete and submit a Team Sheet for both sides to the Organising Committee (See Annex I) of 15 starting players and a maximum of 7 replacements within 48 hours of the final whistle.

12.2 The Team Sheet will contain the following information:

- a) Full Name of Player
- b) Date of Birth of Player

12.3 Each Team Manager **must** sign the team sheet (where indicated) prior to the start of the match.

12.6 Each School/College must ensure that information provided on a Team Sheet is accurate and legible. Failure to submit a team sheet, or late submission, will render a School/College liable to sanction. The provision of false or misleading information on players or replacements shall be a serious breach of this Regulation and may give rise to a severe penalty.

## 13. **Kit**

13.1 The Home team is responsible for ensuring that there is no clash of colours.

13.2 The Home team will change shirts in the event of a clash of colour.

13.3 All teams in the Play Offs and Final must wear numbered shirts.

## 14. **Referees**

- 14.1 The RFU referees department will appoint an independent referee for each game and notify the home team of the appointment.

## **15. Disciplinary Procedures**

- 15.1 When any player is sent off or cited in any match in any of the Competitions, the Disciplinary Procedures for Schools and Club Youth players will apply (see RFU Disciplinary Regulation 9). For procedures/timings for citings see Appendix 7 of the RFU Disciplinary Regulations.
- 15.2 A player who has been suspended from Club Rugby or Schools' Rugby may not play in any of the Competitions matches whilst under suspension.

## **16. Disputes and Breaches of Regulations**

- 16.1 Any matters in dispute or any transgressions of these Regulations shall be referred immediately to the Organising Committee by telephone if necessary within 24 hours following the conclusion of a match, providing written confirmation flows within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match, setting out the grounds of the complaint in full. Any dispute will be resolved not less than 5 days prior to the next round of the competition.
- 16.2 Subject to a right of appeal by any School/College (see Regulation 18) and in accordance with Regulation 17, the Organising Committee shall have the power to discipline any School/College for breach of any of these Regulations. Ignorance of these Regulations will not be deemed an excuse in the event of breach.
- 16.3 Acting either on its own initiative or on an allegation of a breach of any of these Regulations by a School/College from an identified third party, the Organising Committee may review any aspect of the Competition. Any third party allegation shall be notified in writing to the Organising Committee within three school working days (Monday to Friday) of the final whistle of match giving rise to the allegation. The School/College alleged to have breached the competition's Regulations shall have 3 school working days, from its receipt of notification of the allegation, to respond. On receipt of this response the Organising Committee will then give a ruling (which may include a sanction as permitted under these Regulations) within a further 72 hours.
- 16.5 The outcome of any complaint must be given in writing to the complainant within 35 days of receipt of the written complaint by the Organising Committee.

## **17 Sanctions**

*The test applied to decisions in Regulations 17 and 18 relating to decisions on Breach of Regulation and Disciplinary matters is that of "on a balance of probability".*

- 17.1 If the Organising Committee finds a breach of a Regulation has occurred it may bring breach proceedings within 72 hours of receiving the evidence. If it feels there is a case to answer the party committing the alleged breach will be notified and given an opportunity to make submissions. The National Schools and Youth Disciplinary Secretary will be copied in to any such notification. If the Organising Committee is subsequently in dispute with a School/College and arbitration is not possible the NSYDS will appoint an independent panel to review the case.
- 17.2 With the exception of breaches of Regulation 4 (Eligibility of Players) for which the

Organising Committee can disqualify a team for a first offence, sanctions open to the Organising Committee/Independent Panel will include:

- Reprimand an individual or School/College
- A deduction of league points
- A fine up to £100 and/or an Award of reasonable Costs as scheduled by either the Organising Committee and/or a complainant
- Order a replay
- Order that the result is that a School/College has lost the match
- Exclusion from the Competition for a team or that educational establishment, for a specific period of time.

17.3 Any Fines collected by the RFU will be put towards the costs of this Competition. Failure by a School to pay a Fine or Costs will be considered by the RFU and may result in their removal from future National Competitions, until it is paid.

## **18. Right of Appeal**

18.1 Any interested party aggrieved at the decision of the Organising Committee under Regulation 17.2 above may, within 72 hours from the receipt of the letter informing it of the Organising Committees decision, lodge an appeal in writing or request a further review of the decision in writing to the National Schools & Youth Disciplinary Secretary, c/o Tournaments & Competitions Department, Rugby Football Union, Rugby House, Twickenham Stadium, 200 Whitton Road, Twickenham TW2 7BA, stating the grounds on which the appeal or complaint is made. Any such appeal must be accompanied by a payment of £100 payable to the RFU; this fee is refundable in the event the appeal is upheld unless the Appeals Panel decides otherwise.

18.2 The National Schools & Youth Disciplinary Secretary will establish an Appeals Panel whose three members will exclude members of the Organising Committee. The NSYDS will establish what the issues are and canvass to see whether, if parties agree, an Appeal can be heard by way of a written submissions rather than oral evidence/submissions. If a "live" hearing is necessary he will oversee and determine the timing and venue of the Hearing ensuring minimal delay.

18.3 Any individual with a connection to any party involved in such a dispute, breach hearing or with a clear interest in the outcome will not adjudicate on that case.

18.4 The Appeal Chairman will determine the conduct of proceedings and their scope. They will provide written reasons for their decision. The Appeals Panel can vary or impose sanctions as in Regulation 18.2. For the sake of the competition schedule adjournments will be for exceptional circumstances only.

18.5 In any appeal the Appeal Panel shall have discretion, only in exceptional circumstances, to act in any manner it sees fit provided that it is of the opinion that the application of these RFU AASE League Regulations has resulted or would result in a perverse and/or unfair outcome. In all cases where the Appeal Panel exercises that discretion, or where it fails to follow its own procedures, any party to the proceedings may, within 72 hours of the publication of the Appeal Panel's decision, refer the matter to the RFU Disciplinary Officer for review. The Disciplinary Officer will then review the decision and may affirm it or substitute an alternative finding and his decision shall be final and binding.

## **19 Obligations**

19.1 Each School or College entering its team (s) in this Competition agrees that by commencing its programme of matches it has entered into a legally binding obligation with the RFU and as a separate covenant with each other team in the Competition and with any sponsor of the Competition in which the team plays:

19.1.1 To comply in every particular with these Regulations;

19.1.2 To permit access to its premises during a match to any person authorised by the Committee or Organising Committee (with or without notice) to check compliance with all or any of these Regulations.

## **20 Broadcasting & Image Rights**

20.1 The Broadcasting & Image Rights for this competition belong to the RFU.

20.2 The RFU has determined that participating teams may record matches for the purpose of analysis. Any team wishing to record a match using television or any audio-visual or electronic media must obtain the permission of both participating teams prior to the match.

20.3 Anyone wishing to broadcast any match by means of radio, television or any other audio-visual or electronic media must obtain permission from the RFU, c/o Tournaments & Competitions Department, RFU, Rugby House, Twickenham Stadium, 200 Whitton Road, Twickenham, TW2 7BA.

20.3 No team shall take any part (either as organiser or participant or in any other way) in any match that is in whole or in part broadcast by means of radio, television or any other audio-visual or electronic media where doing so shall be a breach of any broadcasting or other contract entered into by the RFU or any other person acting for or on behalf of itself or any group or association of Clubs, Schools, Constituent Bodies or Unions.

**Annex I**

**RFU AASE LEAGUE MATCH RESULT CARD**

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To be completed **IN BLOCK CAPS** by the Home team and checked by an official of the AWAY team  
SURNAME followed by first name.

*N.B. YOU MUST IDENTIFY FRONT ROW REPLACEMENTS WITH "FR" AFTER THE PLAYER'S NAME*

HOME TEAM				SCORE	AWAY TEAM				SCORE
				V					
No. of Tries scored					No. of Tries scored				
Date:	Venue:								
NAME		EQP	DOB	No	NAME		EQP	DOB	
				15					
				14					
				13					
				12					
				11					
				10					
				9					
				1					
				2					
				3					
				4					
				5					
				6					
				7					
				8					
<b>THE BENCH</b>									
				16					
				17					
				18					
				19					
				20					
				21					
				22					
<b>DISCIPLINE - YELLOW &amp; RED CARDS (Please include timings)</b>									
Min	Team	Card (Y/R)	Player name			Reason			
<b>MATCH OFFICIALS TECHNICAL AREA (Tick):</b>						<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Acceptable</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Not Acceptable</b>		
Referee:						Referee's signature			
Touch Judge 1:									
Touch Judge 2:									
Doctor on Site:.....					Home Head Physio:.....				
					Away Head Physio:.....				

THIS FULLY COMPLETED FORM MUST BE EMAILED OR FAXED NO LATER THAN 48 HOURS AFTER THE FINAL WHISTLE TO;

TOM PRICE - FAX 0208 892 4446 / EMAIL tomprice@rfu.com

