



## **Women's Competitions Calendar Notes 2014-15 Season**

### **Leagues**

#### **Premiership and Championship 1 North and South**

- Premiership is top 8 teams in the country
- Championship 1 – split into two league and underpins the Premiership for all clubs aspiring to play premiership rugby, follows the same pattern of regulations and calendar dates
- North = Midlands and North Teams
- South = London & SE and South West teams
- Calendar is produced in line with the Performance requirement and activity
- Full IRB Laws

#### **Championship 2**

- 4 leagues split into the four divisions North, Midlands, South East and South West
- Full IRB laws

#### **National Challenge 1**

- Split into 4 Divisions for the need of the area
- IRB U19 Laws

#### **National Challenge 2 and below**

- Leagues split into local boundaries where possible
- IRB U19 Laws
- Matched playing numbers

#### **Academy Programme**

- Open to all Clubs and Universities to nominate players to trial
- 4 Academies - one each in the North, Midlands, South West and London & SE
- Programme is aimed at the development of players

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## **Cup Competitions**

### **Senior Cup**

**AIM:** To give the top teams in Championship North and South the opportunity to develop and play against Premiership Clubs, which will increase the standard of players within these clubs and therefore aim to reduce the performance gap between them and the Premiership.

- Follows the model of LV= Cup in terms of player development
- To run during and after the 6 Nations and Autumn international programme
- No England Elite players to participate in the competition, unless returning from injury and have been released by the Performance Department
- Open to 8 Premiership Club sides and top 8 sides from Championship North and South
- No 2nd teams.

### **Intermediate Cup/Plate**

- For the remaining clubs in Championship North and South and all clubs in the Championship 2 leagues
- Max 32 teams
- Losing teams in the first round, will then go into a Plate competition so all clubs are guaranteed 2 fixtures
- Area draw in 1st two rounds. Played over 5 weekends with the final at a neutral venue.

### **Junior Cup / plate**

- An option for all clubs playing in National Challenge 1 and below, with added Plate competition as above.

### **CB Programme**

- For all players of clubs playing in National leagues and Universities that are not in the Elite squad or the Divisional programme
- CB programme will be run at the end of the season alongside the men's competition.

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