



The Butcombe Combination Cup Competitions – Season 2023/24

Rules & Regulations – issued 22nd December 2023

1. MANAGEMENT

- a) The organisation of the Cup, Vase & Bowl Competitions (*the Competitions*) shall be under the control of a Sub-Committee appointed by the Combination for that purpose (*The Cup Committee*).
- b) The decisions of the Cup Committee concerning any matters relating to the Competitions shall be final and binding on the participating Clubs.
- c) Subject to the discretion of the Cup Committee, any infringement of these rules may debar an offending Club from further participation in the Competitions.

2. CLUB ELIGIBILITY

- a) The Competitions are open to member Clubs whose 1st XV's play at Regional 1 (level 5) and below.
- b) No Club may enter more than one team.
- c) Clubs must be members of the Bristol & District Rugby Football Combination to enter any Competition.

3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- a) All players must be regular bona fide playing members of their Club. Players aged 17yrs old will be permitted, provided that all current RFU/CB age consent regulations (*RFU Regulation 15.6*) have been complied with. In ALL matches, Front Row players and Front Row replacements must be aged 18yrs or older.
- b) No player who, during the current season, has played at National 2 (Level 4) or above shall be allowed to play in any Competition.
- c) No player who, during the current season, has played at Counties 1 (Level 7) or above shall be allowed to play in the Vase and Bowl Competitions.
- d) No player who, during the current season, has played at Counties 2 (Level 8) or above shall be allowed to play in the Bowl Competitions.
- e) Having represented a Club in either the Cup, Vase or Bowl Competition, a player may not represent another Club in any Competition.
- f) If there is any doubt as to player eligibility or if a participating Club wishes to select a player who is not qualified under the above rules, all relevant details must be referred to the Cup Committee at least fourteen days prior to the date of the match concerned.

4. COMPETITION FORMAT

a) The Competitions will be played in **straight knock-out** format with the winner of each tie progressing to the next round.

5 MATCHES

a) All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Players must wear own Club colours and, in the event of a clash, the 'away' team shall provide and wear distinctive jerseys.

b) Referees for all matches shall be appointed by the Bristol Referees Society. Each participating Club must provide a touch judge in every round except for the Semi-Finals and Finals. The Referees Society will appoint touch judges for the Semi-Finals and Finals. The home club shall be responsible for liaising with (i) the appointed match officials as to the match arrangements (ii) the Society at the earliest opportunity in relation to any proposed change in the match arrangements and (iii) with the appointed official(s) directly to ensure that such official(s) is/are aware of rearrangements and has/have the appropriate directions to the venue of the match (or any change of venue).

c) Before the commencement of each match, each team captain must be able to provide the opposing captain with a list of his players and replacements

d) In all matches except the Final, if the scores are level at full time, the team that has scored more tries shall go forward to the next round. If the number of tries scored are equal, the side with the more converted tries shall go through. Should this not produce a result the away team shall go through to the next round.

e) In the Final, if the scores are level at full time, the team that has scored more tries shall be declared the winner. If the number of tries scored are equal, the side with the more converted tries shall be declared the winner. Should this not produce a result, the match shall be declared a draw.

f) Within 2 hours of the completion of a Competition match, **BOTH** Clubs must text the result to:
Shaun Partridge – 07791 137846

g) All protests, and grounds thereof, must be in the hands of the Cup Committee within 48 hours of a match being played.

6. MATCH SQUADS

a) In all Competition matches, other than the Final, the match squad shall comprise 18 players. In the Final, the match squad shall comprise 22 players.

b) Replacement requirements shall be as per *World Rugby, Law 3* (see summary table below).

Squad size	Minimum number of front row players in the squad	Must be able to replace at the first time of asking
18	4	Either a prop or a hooker
22	5	Both a prop and a hooker

c) In all matches, regardless of squad size, a maximum of 8 player interchanges will be permitted.

7. GENERAL

(a) Trophies will be awarded to the winners of the Cup, Vase & Bowl Competitions. The trophies remain the property of the Combination and must be returned to the Cup Committee on request. The insertion of inscriptions on all trophies is the responsibility of the Combination.

(b) Any surplus funds accrued at the end of the Competitions shall be passed to the Combination.

(c) Any notices required under these rules must be in writing and addressed to the Cup Committee

(d) The interpretation of these rules will lie solely with the Bristol & District Rugby Football Combination Cup Committee and its decision will be final.

e) These Rules & Regulations are to be used from 1st January 2024 and until further notice.