



The Butcombe Combination Cup Competitions – Season 2026/27

Rules & Regulations – issued 9/7/26

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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 2 (Level 6) and below *and 2nd XV's of Clubs at Levels 3, 4 & 5 where those 2nd XV's play no higher than Level 6. Any 2nd XV's of clubs at Level 3, 4 or 5 entering the Bristol & District Cup Competition and who play at Level 6 or 7 will enter the Main Competition, while those that play at Level 8 or below will enter the Vase or Bowl Competition (see 3c). The Cup Committee may need to amend placings. Clubs will be notified should this be necessary & a 'no penalty' withdrawal will be allowed subject to no matches having already taken place involving said Clubs.*
- 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) 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) A Club may only play or select as replacements players who are RFU registered or Club registered in compliance with the RFU, GRFU and SRFU regulations that apply to the league in which the Club is playing during the current season. Allows for deregulated leagues
- c) Players selected for Level 3, 4 or 5 Clubs 2nd XV's must not have played (or been selected to play) for that Clubs 1st XV for a period of 4 games prior to the date set for any Cup Competition match (or any rearranged date as may be necessary). It will be incumbent upon the Club in question to justify player selection, if requested, by the B&DRFC Cup Committee.



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3c cont'd) **Any Club found to have breached this rule will be removed from the Competition and their opponents will be reinstated. See Rule 7d**

3d) Having represented a Club in either the Cup, Vase or Bowl Competition, a player may not represent another Club in any Competition.

e) 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 Assistant Referees 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) Each Club must provide a team sheet to the Cup Committee Hon Sec (email Cupsec@bristolrugbycombination.co.uk & opposition before the nominated kick off time.

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.



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5e) 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 there still be a tie then a Golden Score period will be played. After a break of 5 minutes between regular time & extra time teams will change ends & there will be a maximum of 10 minutes each way (+ any injury time) played with, if necessary, a break of 1 minute between halves. The **first** team to score **any** points during extra time shall be declared the winner.

f) If scores are still level at the end of the extra time period the title will be awarded to the first team who scored points during the entire game. If this does not produce a winner or the score is 0-0 the title will be shared.

g) Where possible a video of the match should be made & be available in case of disciplinary issues which may arise.

h) Within 2 hours of the completion of a Competition match, **BOTH** Clubs must text the result to: **Craig Britton 07825-411441**

i) All protests, and grounds thereof, must be emailed to the Cup Committee Hon Sec within 48 hours of a match being played with text or phone call to the Hon Cup Sec advising of the above within 12hrs of the issue being identified.

6. MATCH SQUADS

a) In all Competition matches, other than the Final, the match squad can comprise up to 20 players. Clubs must agree on squad size at least 24hrs prior to match date. Home side must inform Referee at least 24hrs before kick off. Default squad size in the case of disagreement is 18.. In all League/Cup DoubleHeaders League Rules will take precedence. In the Final, the match squad shall comprise a maximum 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
20	5	Both a prop and a hooker
22	5	Both a prop and a hooker



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6c) In all matches the permitted number of interchanges will be as set out at the beginning of each season by the RFU/SWRugby (www.swrugby.co.uk>Regulations>Rolling Subs).

7. GENERAL

7a) 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 Hon Sec cupsec@bristolrugbycombination.co.uk

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 9/7/26 and until further notice.