

## Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens Tournament Rules

### General Rule

1. The Tournament will be conducted entirely under the control of the Rosslyn Park Schools Sevens Committee (hereafter referred to as the Committee) whose decision, in all matters, is final. In the event of any complaint arising from a game the Ground Manager's decision (which may be made with input from the Referee Manager and the Tournament Director) will be final.

### Entry Rules

2. Boys and girls are eligible to play in the Tournament only if they are attending their school or college for the whole of the academic year 2022/23.
3. A school or college may enter a team into either the Cup or the Vase (see definition below). Exceptions may be made on special representation from the Tournament Director and with the approval of the Committee. The Cup is for schools and colleges who want to be seen as the best rugby 7's school or college in the country. The Vase is for emerging sides looking to develop their 7s game.
4. All players must be in the correct age band as of midnight 31 August/1 September 2022 – the playing down exception being if the pupil from an England Rugby Schools membership has been kept down a year and has attended the full academic year and this has been registered with the academic institution. Please note that teams from other Unions MUST adhere to the original ruling of age/date and no exception can be made for playing down.

### The Cup U18 Boys

- a. Any school or college may enter the Cup competition.

### The Vase U18 Boys

- a. Schools or colleges may enter the Vase if they are not an ACE League (Boys) Institution.
- b. The Committee has absolute discretion to re-classify a school from the Vase to the Cup on receipt of the entry form. The school will be notified in advance of the draw. Winners of the Vase will be asked to move up to the Cup the following year.

### The ACE U18 Girls

- d. No girls under 16 may play (RFU Regulation 15.5).

### The U18 Girls Open

- e. No girls under 16 may play (RFU Regulation 15.5).
- f. No AoC Performance League (Girls) Institutions may enter the Girls Competition, without consent of the committee.

### The Under 14 Girls

- g. No girls under 12 may play (RFU Regulation 15.5). Size 4 balls to be used and squad size of 14 is permissible.

### The Preparatory Schools U13 Boys

- h. Open to schools in membership of the IAPS or the ISA or by special invitation.

### Competition Rules

5. Invitation sides comprising players from different educational establishments will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
6. On arrival, and before playing their first match, each team must meet with the respective Ground Manager, confirm the names of all players in the squad, together with the 2 further replacements in the event that they are required on the second day under Rule 14, and certify that each player satisfies the age requirement within the Entry Rules above.
7. No player may play as a substitute or replacement for another school.
8. If, before its first game, a side is unable, for whatever reason, to field 7 players, then a reserve side will replace them. If a reserve side is not available, then the pool is reduced.
9. If it has not been possible to replace a side, which then arrives late for pool games, any games are "friendly" and do not count towards pool results, even if all other pool teams want to play.
10. If, before any pool game other than its first, a side is unable to field 7 players, then the pool game is null and void, all previous results in the pool involving the side are also null and void and the side is removed from the Tournament.
11. Teams will be awarded 2 match points for a win and 1 for a draw. In the event of a tied number of match points Group Winners will be decided by:  
Check 1. Greatest points difference (points scored less points conceded).  
Check 2. Greatest points scored.  
If all equal, then toss of a coin.
12. For the purpose of ranking runners-up from any pool rounds the points difference and points scored will be divided by the actual number of games played and, if match points are tied (teams in reduced pools being awarded 2 match points for "walk-overs"), the resulting average points difference and points scored will be used to rank the teams.
13. If, before a knock-out game, a side is unable, for whatever reason, to field 7 players, then that side forfeits the match.
14. If a team makes it through to the second day and injuries or illness occur, they may replace the injured/ill players with a maximum of 2 replacements. If there are more than 2 injured/ill players, the school/college must compete with a depleted squad.
15. If the committee sees fit to override any of these guidelines for the benefit of the tournament or under exceptional circumstances, then their decision is final.

### Playing Rules

16. Playing time will not usually exceed 42 minutes (3 games) in any two-hour period. No side shall be required to play more than 90 minutes in one day.
17. Games will be played under the World Rugby Laws, U19 variations, Standard set of variations for Sevens and any RFU Law Interpretations/Variations for the Season 2022/2023. Each item of protective clothing, padding or otherwise, must conform to World Rugby Specifications.
18. A size 4 ball will be used for the U11, Preparatory, Junior, Under 14 Schools Competitions.
19. Each game shall be played for 7 minutes each way, including the final, with a 2-minute half-time break. No extra time will be played in the pool rounds of any Tournament and matches will be left drawn.
20. In the knock-out rounds if, at the end of normal time, neither side has won, captains will toss for the right to kick off or choice of ends and play will continue in periods of five minutes, changing ends after each period without further interval with the first side to score being declared the winner.
21. In any game a maximum of 5 players from the squad of 12 named for that day may replace those on the field. Rolling substitutions/replacements must be made with the Referee's permission and be made only when there is a stoppage (except a penalty unless an injury) or the ball is out of play.
22. Staff in charge must ensure that replacements are immediately available during each game.

23. A player replaced through injury may play in subsequent games subject to medical approval. Rossllyn Park Medical Staff will override an internal school decision to ensure player safety.
24. In the event of a sending-off, the player is not allowed to play again in the current Tournament and the team plays with less than 7 players for the rest of that game. The team is, however, allowed to start with 7 players for the next game(s). The use of Temporary Suspension (Sin Bin) for 2 minutes will be in force. Referees will process the decision following the Rossllyn Park Protocol in reviewing and registering each Red Card.
25. In the event of a side being unable to continue to field 7 players during a game, other than through sending-off or a temporary suspension, then the game is abandoned and:
  - a. if a pool game, then the pool game is null and void, all previous results involving the side are also null and void and the side is removed from the Tournament.
  - b. if a knock-out game, the other side goes through.
26.
  - a. For a kick at goal after a try scored between the posts, the kick shall be made from behind in-goal so that the ball is more readily available for the restart of the game i.e. the ball is kicked towards the half-way line.
  - b. For a kick at goal after a try scored other than between the posts. One player of the opposing team will be required to be behind in-goal to retrieve the ball (these local rules will not be enforced when ball boys are available).
27. No school 'support staff' e.g. coaches or relatives/friends are allowed onto the pitches during play (unless there is serious injury to a player, and the referee has stopped play).
28. No refunds will be made if the Competitions have to be cancelled for reasons of safety. We will endeavour to avoid a loss of entry fee, but registration and subsequent payment indicate agreement with this clause. Should you not gain entry to the tournament proper and remain on the Group Reserve list, a full refund is permitted, or it is possible to carry over the payment to 2024. However withdrawals made after the draws are published will not be refunded. View the RFU laws and RFU laws and Youth Variations.
29. With regard to RFU Regulation 15.11.3 when a game reaches a 50 point differential (30 point differential for U11's), and even if both teams agree to continue to play, the score at that time shall be recorded as the final score.
30. Masters in charge shall be responsible for ensuring that each member of their squad plays sufficient time to comply with RFU Regulation 15.12 (Half Game Rule). On each day the Available Playing Time for the purposes of this Regulation shall be based on the number of guaranteed games (e.g. Pool games). The Half Game Rule will not apply to non-guaranteed knock-out games but, as a matter of best practice, should still be applied if possible. Further clarification may be obtained from the Ground Managers if required.