

# ROSSLYN | National PARK | Schools Sevens

## Rosslyn Park National School Sevens Rules 2023/24:

### General Rules

1. The tournament will be conducted under the control of the Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens Committee, whose decision in all matters is final. In the event of any complaint arising from a game the decision of the Committee Control, Referee Manager or Tournament Director, will be final – in situations of dispute the tournament director will make the final decision.
2. Any verbal or physical abuse directed to officials (on field or not) will not be accepted, this is inclusive of participants, school staff or parents/supporters. If this is deemed unacceptable, via review if necessary, then the committee may disqualify or deduct points from the offending team. Notice will be given to the team being sanctioned before their next fixture.
3. Boys and girls are eligible to play in the tournament competitions only if they are attending their school or college for the whole of the academic year, 2023/2024 - playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15. Attached.
4. No refunds will be made if the competitions must be cancelled for reasons of health and safety. We will endeavor 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 reserve list, a full refund is permitted, or it is possible to carry over the payment to the 2025 tournament, however withdrawals made after draws are published will not be refunded.
5. Regarding 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.
6. Teachers 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.
7. All England registered schools must be in membership of the England Rugby Football Schools' Union.
8. All non-England registered schools must obtain permission from their own Union prior to the start of the Tournament and copied to the England Rugby Football Schools' Union.
9. The playing down of players RFU Regulation 15.4, only applies to England registered schools.

# ROSSLYN PARK

# National Schools Sevens

## Age Specific Rules

### 10.

#### **The U18 Boys Cup Competition**

- a. Any school or college may enter a team into the U18 Boys Cup, this is the highest tier at this age band.
- b. All boys must be under 18 at midnight 31st August/1st September 2023 – playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15. Attached
- c. A size 5 ball will be used.
- d. There is a core squad size of 13 players with 1 travelling reserve permitted who can play on the second day in exchange for one of the existing squad players.

#### **The U18 Boys Vase Competition**

- e. Schools or colleges may enter the Vase if they are not an ACE League College - The U18 Boys Vase is for emerging schools looking to develop, in time, to the Cup.
- f. **The Committee has absolute discretion to re-classify a team from the U18 Boys Vase to the U18 Boys Cup.**
- g. All boys must be under 18 at midnight 31st August/1st September 2023 – playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15. Attached.
- h. A size 5 ball will be used.
- i. There is a core playing squad size of 13 players with 1 travelling reserve permitted who can play on the second day in exchange for one of the existing squad players. The outgoing squad player may not take any further part in the competition.

#### **The U18 Girls ACE Competition**

- j. The U18 Girls ACE is eligible to Academy, Colleges & Education eligible teams. All girls must be under 18 at midnight 31st August/1st September 2023, this is the highest tier at this age band – playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15. Attached.
- k. A size 5 ball will be used.
- l. There is a squad size of 13 players only.

#### **The U18 Girls Vase Competition**

- m. All girls must be under 18 at midnight 31st August/1st September 2023 – playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15. Attached.
- n. No ACE colleges may enter the Girls Competition without the consent of the committee.
- o. A size 5 ball will be used.
- p. There is a core playing squad size of 13 players with 1 travelling reserve permitted who can play on the second day in exchange for one of the existing squad players. The outgoing squad player may not take any further part in the competition.

# ROSSLYN PARK | National Schools Sevens

## **The U16 Boys Colts Competition**

- q. All boys must be under 16 at midnight 31st August/1st September 2023, playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15. Attached.
- r. A size 5 ball will be used.
- s. There is a core playing squad size of 13 players with 1 travelling reserve permitted who can play on the second day in exchange for one of the existing squad players. The outgoing squad player may not take any further part in the competition.

## **The U16 Girls Competition**

- t. All girls must be under 16 at midnight 31st August/1st September 2023 - playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15. Attached.
- u. A size 5 ball will be used.
- v. There is a squad size of 14 players only.

## **The U14 Boys Competition**

- w. All boys must be under 14 at midnight 31st August/1st September 2023 - playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15. Attached.
- x. A size 4 ball will be used.
- y. There is a core playing squad size of 13 players with 1 travelling reserve permitted who can play on the second day in exchange for one of the existing squad players. The outgoing squad player may not take any further part in the competition.

## **The U14 Girls Competition**

- z. All girls must be under 14 at midnight 31st August/1st September 2023 - playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15. Attached.
- a.a. A size 4 ball will be used.
- a.b. There is a squad size of 14 players only.

## **The U13 Preparatory Competition**

- a.c. Open to schools in membership of the IAPS or the ISA or by special invitation.
- a.d. All boys must be under 13 at midnight 31st August/1st September 2023 - playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15. Attached.
- a.e. A size 4 ball will be used.
- a.f. There is a squad size of 13 players only.

# ROSSLYN PARK

# National Schools Sevens

## **The U13 Boys Junior Competition**

- a.g.** All boys must be under 13 at midnight 31st August/1st September 2023 - playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15. Attached.
- a.h.** A size 4 will be used.
- a.i.** There is a squad size of 13 players only.

## **The U11 Mixed Competition**

- a.j.** All participants must be under 11 at midnight 31st August/1st September 2023 - playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15. Attached. – **There is no mandatory gender ratio however males and females can play together.**
- a.k.** A size 4 ball will be used.
- a.l.** There is a squad size of 13 players only.

## **Further Competition Rules**

11. Invitational sides comprising players from different educational establishments will be considered on a case-by-case basis – this will be decided in advance of the tournament and no such ad-hoc arrangement can be made during the event.
12. **On arrival, and before playing their first match, each team must register with the Control Point where their matches are being played. The names of all players in the squad must be provided and the representative must certify that each player satisfies the age requirement within the entry rules above.**
13. The maximum squad size is stipulated above – any breach of this may result in removal from the tournament.
14. No player may act as a substitute or replacement for another school.
15. If, before its first game, a side is unable, for whatever reason, to field seven players, then a reserve side will replace them. If a reserve side is not available, then the pool is reduced unless the committee deems suitable. Fixtures can be altered by the committee, therefore by consequence, any group or progression within competitions may be altered - the committee, with consultation of participants, has the final decision.
16. 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. Only a match sanctioned officially within a specific competition by the committee will count toward pool results.
17. If, before any pool game other than its first, a side is unable to field seven 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 unless a committee decision is officially made, specifically when influencing another team’s progression.
18. **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).**

# ROSSLYN | National PARK | Schools Sevens

## Check 2. Greatest Points scored.

**If all equal then toss of coin – this must be conducted in the presence of both team representatives, referee management and a committee member/tournament director.**

19. For the purposes 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.
20. For competitions where a travelling reserve is permitted and a team progresses to the second day, they may replace 1 existing player with the travelling replacement. That is the maximum possible number of changes, and the school/college must compete with a depleted squad if there are additional injuries.
21. If the committee or tournament director 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

22. 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.
23. Games will be played under the World Rugby Laws (U19 variations) with the standard set of variations for Sevens and any RFU Law Interpretations/Variations for Season 2023/2024. Each item of protective clothing, padding or otherwise, must conform to World Rugby Specifications.
24. 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 competition and matches will be left drawn.
25. **Where applicable**, 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.
26. Substitutions/replacements must be made with the Referee’s permission and be made only when there is a stoppage (except a penalty) or the ball is out of play.
27. Staff in charge must ensure that replacements are immediately available during each game.
28. A player replaced through injury may play in subsequent games subject to medical approval. **Rosslyn Park Medical Staff will override an internal school decision to ensure player safety.**
29. In the event of a sending-off, the player is not allowed to play again in the current (2024) tournament and the team plays with less than seven players for the rest of that game, if the Red Carded player takes to the field again in any future 2024 tournament fixtures then that school will be removed from the tournament in its entirety (other age groups will also be removed). The team is, however, allowed to start with seven players for the next game(s).

# ROSSLYN | National PARK | Schools Sevens

The use of Temporary Suspension (Sin Bin) for two minutes will be in force. Referees will process the decision following the Rosslyn Park National School's Sevens Protocol in reviewing and registering each Red Card.

30. In the event of a side being unable to continue to field seven 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 competition.
  - b. if a knock-out game, the other side goes through.
- 31.a. For a kick at goal after a try scored between the posts, the kick shall be made from behind in-goal, if possible, 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 member of the opposing team **will be required to be behind in-goal** to retrieve the ball. This rule will not be enforced if ball boys are **available**.
32. No school staff are allowed onto the pitch during play (unless there is serious injury to a player and the referee has stopped play).