

Howden Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens Rules 2024/25:

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, Referee Manager 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 off) will not be accepted, this is inclusive of participants, school staff and 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. Participants are eligible to play in the tournament competitions only if they are attending their school or college for the whole of the academic year, 2024/2025 - playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU Regulation 15.
4. Regarding RFU Regulation 15.11.3 Matches must come to an end when game reaches a 50-point differential in U14 to U18 competitions or 30-point differential for both U13 and U11 competitions.
5. School staff members in charge shall be responsible for ensuring that each member of their squad complies with RFU Regulation 15.12 (Half Game Rule). On each competition day, the 'Available Playing Time' of this Regulation shall be based on the number of guaranteed games (e.g., Pool games). The 'Half Game Rule' will not apply to knock-out games but, as a matter of best practice, should still be applied if possible. Further clarification may be obtained from the Referee Managers if required.
6. All English tournament-registered schools must be in membership of the English Rugby Football Schools Union.
7. All non-English tournament-registered schools must obtain permission from their own National Union prior to competing in the Tournament and notification sent to the England Rugby Football Schools email - Tours@EnglandRugby-Schools.com
8. The playing down of players RFU Regulation 15.4 only applies to England registered schools.
9. Invitational sides comprising players from different educational establishments will be considered on a case-by-case basis, this can only be decided in advance of the tournament and no ad-hoc arrangements can be made during the event without the consent of the Tournament Director.
10. **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.**
11. The maximum squad size is stipulated below – any breach of this may result in removal from the tournament.
12. No player may act as a substitute or replacement for another school without prior permission from the Committee or Tournament Director.

13. 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 team 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. **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 coin – this must be conducted in the presence of both team representatives, referee management and a committee member/tournament director.
17. 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.
18. If the committee or tournament director deems it fit to override any of these rules for the benefit of the tournament or under exceptional circumstances, then their decision is final.

Competition Specific Rules

19.1. All teams in all competitions can bring 13 players and 1 travelling reserve in case of injury. If the travelling reserve comes in to the squad of 13 players there must be 1 outgoing player, this outgoing player may not take part in any future games regardless of being a 1-day or 2-day competition. If this change takes place, it is the responsibility of the staff member in charge to report this, with the outgoing player’s name, to a control point.

19.2

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 2024 – playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15.
- c. A size 5 ball will be used.

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 2024 – playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15.
- h. A size 5 ball will be used.

The U18 Girls ACE Competition

- j. The U18 Girls ACE is eligible to Academy, Colleges & Education eligible teams.
- k. All girls must be under 18 at midnight 31st August/1st September 2024, this is the highest tier at this age band – playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15.
- k. A size 5 ball will be used.

The U18 Girls Open Competition

- m. All girls must be under 18 at midnight 31st August/1st September 2024 – playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15.
- n. No ACE colleges may enter the Girls Competition without the consent of the committee.
- o. A size 5 ball will be used.

The U16 Boys Colts Competition

- q. All boys must be under 16 at midnight 31st August/1st September 2024, playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15.
- r. A size 5 ball will be used.

The U16 Girls Competition

- t. All girls must be under 16 at midnight 31st August/1st September 2024 - playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15.
- u. A size 5 ball will be used.

The U14 Boys Competition

- w. All boys must be under 14 at midnight 31st August/1st September 2024 - playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15.
- x. A size 4 ball will be used.

The U14 Girls Competition

- z. All girls must be under 14 at midnight 31st August/1st September 2024 - playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15.



a.a. A size 4 ball will be used.

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 2024 - playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15.

a.e. A size 4 ball will be used.

The U13 Boys Junior Competition

a.g. All boys must be under 13 at midnight 31st August/1st September 2024 - playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15.

a.h. A size 4 will be used.

The U11 Mixed Competition

a.j. All participants must be under 11 at midnight 31st August/1st September 2024 - playing up/down rules can be seen in the RFU document under section 15. – **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 will be a maximum pitch size 60 metres by 43 metres, plus 5 metres for each in-goal area.