

## **GENERAL COMPETITION AND CHALLENGE TROPHY RULES**

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**1.** All challenges for challenge trophies must be made in writing to the Secretary of the Group and shall for all first grade trophies be accompanied by such challenge fees as may be determined by the Group. All challenges shall reach the Secretary seven (7) clear days before the draw is made for such challenge fixtures.

**2.a** All fixtures shall be arranged by ballot for dates fixed by the Group or as otherwise directed by the Annual Meeting of the Group

**2.b** If more than one challenge trophy the order in which the challenges shall be accepted shall be determined by a draw conducted by the Executive of the Group as may be deemed expedient from time to time. The General Committee shall determine the manner in which the competition is conducted

**3.a** If a Club forfeits to another the match shall count as a match played and be declared in favor of the club receiving the forfeit. The Group shall have power to impose a fine or penalty on any Club forfeiting should it fail to give three (3) clear consecutive days notice of forfeit

**3.b** In the event of any Club forfeiting their date for any challenge trophy the Secretary of such Club must give three (3) clear consecutive days notice either by registered letter or facsimile to the Secretary of the Group and the holders of the trophy of their inability to play failing which they shall be liable to such fine or penalty as the Group may impose

**4.a** A bye shall count as a win

**4.b** Should any club forfeit a date drawn for a challenge trophy the next Club on the list in the draw shall automatically take the vacant date and play the holders of the trophy, provided, in all cases three clear consecutive days notice of the alteration has been given by the Secretary of the Group. The balance of the Clubs in the draw shall go forward accordingly.

**5.** A referee shall be appointed for each match by the Group Referees Appointment Board or failing such appointment by the Secretary of the Group or Constituent League. In the event of a referee so appointed not attending within fifteen minutes after the time fixed for the commencement of the match, then a referee may be appointed by the captains or failing the captains by the managers of the opposing teams.

**6.a** Matches shall commence at such times and be played upon such grounds as may be directed by the Group or Constituent League unless otherwise decided by the League, and any such team not prepared to commence a match within thirty minutes after the time directed shall be deemed to have forfeited unless satisfactory reasons for the delay are given to the Group or Constituent League

**6.b** Each match shall be played in two divisions of time each division to be not less than 30 minutes or not more than 40 minutes, with an interval of not more than 10 minutes. Unless otherwise decided by the General Committee the divisions for all first grade competitions and challenge matches shall be 40 minutes each way

**7.** No person shall participate in an age limit competition unless he has submitted satisfactory proof of age to the Secretary of the Club and League controlling such fixture -

**8.** Any club having an unregistered or unqualified player shall lose the match in which such player participated and the non offending club will have the competition points automatically allocated to them

**9.** (a) Players in all competitions (Senior, Junior, Mod-League and Mini League) shall wear proper football uniform consisting of numbered jerseys bearing the CRL logo and made in the registered colours and design of the Constituent Leagues or Clubs together with approved shorts, socks, boots or shoes.

(b) In the absence of any explanation considered acceptable to the Group Executive Committee, any team wearing apparel not in accordance with sub-rule (a) of this rule shall forfeit any competition points earned in the match and be liable to such other penalty as the Committee shall see fit to impose.

**10.** The Group or Constituent League shall have power to annul a match and order it to be replayed on the grounds of misconduct of the referee

**11.** The referee shall within 24 hours report to the Secretary of the Group or Constituent League any instance of rough or foul play or any instance of misconduct occurring during the progress of a match or otherwise whether such misconduct led to a player being ordered off the field or not.

**12.** Any player who has been ordered off the field shall immediately leave the playing area and resume his ordinary attire and shall be suspended from playing until his case shall have been dealt with by the Group or Constituent League Judiciary Committee. It shall be the duty of the Club officials concerned to secure the defence (if any) of the player concerned and forward same together with any relevant evidence to the Secretary of the Group or Constituent League within three days of the match failing which the Judiciary Committee may proceed to deal with the case

**13.** Any Club playing any player under suspension, or temporary suspension, or disqualification shall lose the match in which such disqualified or suspended player took part and shall be rendered liable to disqualification

**14.** The fitness of the ground to be played upon shall be decided upon by the two captains and should they disagree by the referee

**15.** In the event of any teams playing with more than thirteen men it shall be the duty of the opposing captain to draw the attention of the referee to the fact and he shall disallow all points scored whilst the excess number of men over thirteen were on the field of play by the offending team and shall order the removal from the field of play of the excess number of men over thirteen. If such order be not complied with within five minutes the referee shall award the match to the non offending side.

### **REPLACEMENT RULE**

**16.** If a team begins a match with less than thirteen men it may fill the vacant place or places at any time during the game and if it shall begin a match with thirteen men replacements shall be allowed at any time for players in all grades. The following conditions cover replacement of players.

**16.a** Players may be replaced in all matches played under the jurisdiction of the League

**16.b** Players may be replaced at any time in all matches

**16.c** No more than four players shall be replaced in any one team. A replacement must report to the Referee and give his name and number and can only be effected when the ball is out of play or play is stopped because of injury

**16.d** The laws relating to the replacement of players apply also to any player who arriving late for the game wishes to join in the play after the game has started

**16.e** A replacement for a First Grade player must have played a full half game in either reserve grade, third grade or lower grade match on the same date. Time off the field at the direction of the referee shall count as playing time when determining the eligibility of a replacement player.

**16.f** Time off the field in the Blood bin and Sin Bin (Temporary Suspension), at the direction of the referee, shall count as playing time when determining eligibility of replacement players.

**16.g** A replacement for a Reserve Grade player may be a player who may or may not have played a full game in either Third or a lower grade match played on the same date

**16.h** Provided a player is qualified and registered there shall be no other qualification for replacements in the case of Lower Grade fixture being forfeited

**16.i** In all play-offs for Semi-Final positions, Semi-Final, Final and Grand Final matches, players may be replaced by four players who may or may not have played in an earlier match and who have the necessary qualifications for Semi-Finals, Finals and Grand Finals as defined in the Constitution

**16.j** Qualification of players: When a player is called upon to replace a player in any grade, for the purpose of his eligibility for play-offs, Semi-Finals, Finals and Grand Finals, he shall be regarded as having played in the lower grade but for record purposes the player shall be credited with having played in both grades

**16.k** In the case of a player who has not been injured the replacement player shall report to the Touch Judge who at the break in the play will advise the replacement that he may go on to the field and inform the Referee that he is replacing a certain player

**16.l** A player cannot be substituted during a play-the-ball, except when play is stopped because of injury. If a substitution is effected when a kick at goal is to be taken, the replacement player shall not be allowed to take the kick

**16.m** Players Misconduct: A player is guilty of misconduct if he re-enters the field of play without permission of the referee or a Touch Judge having previously temporarily retired from the game

**17.** An appeal from a decision of a referee on a matter of law shall be dismissed if the captain of the appellant team shall have failed to formally challenge such decision on the field of play

**18.** At the commencement of each season the Secretary of the Group or Constituent League shall notify all affiliated bodies of the opening date of the various challenge trophies and competitions

**19.** The holders of any trophy shall be responsible for the safekeeping of same and shall, on being defeated, hand it over to the successful challengers in good order and condition, having regard to the order and condition in which it was received and shall give receipt to this effect to the previous holders

**20.a** Any Club in possession of any challenge trophy, shall on becoming defunct or inoperative, through any reason, return same to the Group or Constituent League. In the case of a Constituent League all trophies in its possession shall be returned to the Group

**20.b** The Group or Constituent League, irrespective of any rules or regulations framed to control challenge trophies shall have power to regulate, suspend or otherwise alter in any respect challenges for same to allow for the introduction of competition football in lieu thereof, should it so desire.

**21.** All gates shall be controlled to the satisfaction of the Group or Constituent League which shall if it so desires appoint a representative to supervise same. Challenging Clubs have the right to check the gates of all matches in which they are taking part

**22.** When a referee is unable to continue he should appoint a substitute, preferably a neutral touch judge. If the referee is not able to appoint a substitute, the respective captains should mutually agree, failing which the touch judge with the greater experience should take control. If the injury sustained by a referee renders him incapable of blowing his whistle to stop the game, the latter shall be deemed to have stopped at the time the injury was sustained.

**23.** The venue for each semi-final, final, grand final, play-off or replay of any match shall be decided by the Management Committee. Such Management Committee to be elected or appointed by Annual Meeting of the Group.

**24.**

- a) At the conclusion of matches in the Competition rounds as provided for in the Draw, all teams will be ranked in descending order according to the number of competition points accrued during the season, subject only to any other provisions of the Group/Division Rules regarding the deduction of competition points
- b) Positions in the Finals Series will be determined on this basis subject to the number of teams to be included in the Finals Series as determined by the Group/Division
- c) At the conclusion of matches in the Competition rounds provided for in the Draw, if two (2) or more teams are equal in competition points, rankings will be determined according to the following criteria from the total results of all matches played in the Competition rounds:
  - i) Greater positive difference between points scored for and against, then if equal,
  - ii) Greater percentage of points scored for and against, being determined by:

$$\frac{\text{Points scored for}}{\text{Points scored against}} \quad \times \quad \frac{100}{1}$$

Then if equal,

- iii) most tries scored, then if equal,
  - iv) most goals kicked, then if equal,
  - v) most drop goals kicked, then if equal,
  - vi) by the toss of a coin
- d) The format for the matches to be played in the Finals Series will be as determined by the Group/Division prior to the commencement of the competition (recommendations for the playing of four (4) and five team Finals Series are attached).

- e) If scores are equal at the conclusion of normal time in any Finals Series match, then in such matches, including the Grand Final, a period of extra time shall follow whereby the first scorer of any point or points (field goal, penalty goal or try) will immediately be declared the winner.
  - i) If a try is scored in extra time the conversion kick will not be permitted
  - ii) The commencement of the period of extra time shall be determined by the toss of a coin as described under the Laws of the Game
  - iii) If no point or points have been scored after a period of five (5) minutes, the referee shall cease play and the teams shall immediately change ends
  - iv) The team that did not kick off to commence the initial period of extra time will kick off to commence the second period
  - v) Play shall then continue on an unlimited time basis until the first point or points have been scored to determine the winner of the match
- f) In all cases Finals Series matches will be played at venues determined by the Management Committee of the Group/Division
- g) All Finals Series matches are under the control of the Group/Division and are considered neutral matches.
  - i) The Management Committee will issue specific requirements to each Club which qualifies to host Finals Series matches
  - ii) If any of the Finals Series Host Club Requirements are not met by the Host Club the Management Committee of the Group/Division may impose penalties
- h) All revenue from Finals Series matches shall be retained by the Group/Division

#### **FOUR TEAM FINALS SERIES FORMAT**

- i) The first four Clubs in competition points shall meet in the semi finals
- j) The Club standing third in competition points shall play the Club standing fourth in the Minor Semi Final
- k) The Club standing first in competition points shall play the Club standing second in the Major Semi Final
- l) The winner of the Minor Semi Final shall play the loser of the major semi final in the Preliminary Final
- m) The winner of the Major Semi Final shall then play the winner of the Preliminary Final in the Grand Final

## **FIVE TEAM FINALS SERIES FORMAT**

- n) The first five Clubs in competition points shall meet in the semi finals
- o) The Club standing fourth in competition points shall play the Club standing fifth in the Minor Qualifying Semi Final
- p) The Club standing second in competition points shall play the Club standing third in the Major Qualifying Semi Final
- q) The winner of the Minor Qualifying semi final shall play the loser of the Major Qualifying Semi Final in the Minor Semi Final
- r) The winner of the Major Qualifying Semi Final shall then play the team standing first in competition points in the Major Semi Final
- s) The winner of the Minor Semi Final final shall play the loser of the Major Semi Final in the Preliminary Final
- t) The winner of the Major Semi Final shall play then the winner of the Preliminary Final in the Grand Final      **Ammended 29 November 2008**

**25.a** Players are eligible to play in any grade at any time with the exception of Semi-Finals, Finals, Grand Finals and Play-Offs. For the purpose of Semi-Finals, Finals, Grand Finals and Play-Offs, a player will be eligible for the competition he played the majority of his games in throughout the season. **Ammended 8 Feb 2008**

**25.b** The qualification period shall end at the finish of the competition rounds

**25.c** The qualification of players of Reserve, Third and other grade teams in Semi-Finals, Finals, Grand Finals and Play-Offs must be submitted to the Group Qualification Committee for perusal and action not later than three days prior to the fixture and their decision shall be final

**25.d** Any Club that has immediate subordinate teams namely First and Reserve and Third or First, Reserve and Third Grade on the same day shall be allowed to choose their strongest teams on that day from all available players

**25.e** Any player, who after being called on to play in a higher grade, shall fail or refuse to do so, may be disqualified for the remainder of the season, unless the General Committee is satisfied that he has good and sufficient reasons for so acting. A player replacing a player representing the Group or other representative match on the day on which a competition match takes place, shall be deemed not to have played in a higher grade, provided that it has been previously specified. Matches forfeited shall be deemed to be matches played for the qualification of players for Semi-Finals, Finals, Grand Finals and Play-Offs, provided team sheets are received with the prescribed time and 17 players may sign team sheet and be qualified