



## **Danske Bank Ulster Schools' Cup and related Competitions**

### **Rules and Regulations 2016-2017**

#### **GENERAL REGULATIONS**

1. Please note that the regulations governing these competitions are published in the Bye-laws of the Ulster Branch and the IRB Laws of the game of Rugby Football. Your attention is drawn to the variations applicable to Under 19 Rugby. All schools in entering the Competitions, and signing the Entry Form, must agree to conform to all the Rules and Regulations described herein. Failure to meet any of the Rules and Regulations, in particular Regulation 32, may result in sanctions up to and including possible non-admittance to competitions in the following year.
2. All participating schools are requested to adhere to the Code of Conduct as set out in the IRFU Child Welfare Document. (Copies are available from the Ulster Branch or can be accessed through the Ulster Branch website.)
3. Additional regulations, with regard to operational arrangements to be followed, will be forwarded by the Ulster Branch (IRFU) to Schools involved in games at the Kingspan Stadium.

#### **TOURNAMENT and FORMAT**

4. Under the current format there are four competitions at 1<sup>st</sup> XV and Medallion XV Level, two at 2<sup>nd</sup> XV Level and two at 3<sup>rd</sup> XV Level. Entry to 2<sup>nd</sup> XV competitions requires entry to the Schools' Cup and entry to the 3<sup>rd</sup> XV competitions requires entry to the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV competition other than in exceptional cases where High Schools, who do not compete in the Schools' Cup, may be granted entry to the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV and 3<sup>rd</sup> XV competitions by the Schools' Committee if this entry level is deemed to be more appropriate. (Players involved in U18/U19 Age Grade Squads will not be permitted to play in the 3<sup>rd</sup> XV competition.) Teamsheets will be monitored in order to ensure the integrity of all Senior competitions. In the event of significant duplication in starting XV's across the competitions, this will be investigated by the Schools' Committee Officers and action taken, if appropriate. If schools have queries in respect of the eligibility of any of their players for a fixture in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> XV competitions they should seek clarification from the Schools' Committee Officers in advance of the fixture being played.
5. Any school, which having entered a competition and subsequently withdraws, may be forbidden to enter the following year.
6. Schools may claim for travel to one match during any Cup competition.
7. All matches at U18 level shall be 35 minutes each way, and at U15 level 30 minutes each way. Time may be added for injuries. There will be no extra time played.
8. In the event of a 'clash' of jersey colours the home team must agree to an alternative strip.
9. A fresh draw will be made after each round.
10. Only the semi finals of the Schools' Cup and Medallion Shield Competitions will be played at neutral venues. All other semi finals will be played at the venue of the first named school, unless mutually agreed.
11. In the event that two competing schools are in mutual agreement to play their match prior to the arranged date, application should be made to the Schools' Committee Officers for approval. Approval will not be given for matches to be played after the arranged date, other than in very exceptional circumstances agreed with the Schools' Committee Officers (Chairman, Secretary and Branch Representative).
12. Where replays are necessary following a scheduled Saturday match, they must be played on/before the following Wednesday unless by agreement through the Schools' Committee Officers. A further replay will be played at one of the school pitches with the venue being decided by a toss of a coin.



In the event of a further draw the winners will be decided as follows:

- (i) The team which scores the most tries in the final game.
- (ii) If still level, then the team who scored the most penalties in the final game.
- (iii) If still level, then the team who scored the most drop goals in the final game.
- (iv) If still level, then the team who scored the first try in the final match.
- (v) If still level, then the team who kicked the first penalty goal in the final match.
- (vi) If still level, then the team who scored the first drop goal in the final match.
- (vii) If still level the team who scores the most tries in the 3 games.
- (viii) If the above fail to differentiate then the toss of a coin by the referee will decide who progresses to the next round. The home side in the first game will be 'heads' and will progress if 'heads' is face up.

In the event of a drawn replay, in a competition other than the Danske Bank Schools' Cup or Danske Bank Medallion Shield, and where there is insufficient time for a further replay, the toss of a coin (by the masters-in-charge) should be used.

## RELATIONSHIP with COMPETITION SPONSORS – DANSKE BANK

13. Schools are asked to ensure that requests from the sponsors should be accommodated, e.g in respect of signage and post protectors etc.
14. If the game is being televised (you will be advised), BBC would appreciate some 'height' for their camera.

## PLAYING SQUADS

15. The age limit for the senior competitions is Under 18 on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 and Under 15 on the same date for the Medallion competitions.
16. All players must be registered appropriately on the Ulster Branch (IRFU) Player Registration System
17. All pupils representing a school must be registered pupils of that school.
18. Both teams should supply a team list for the referee/press with players numbered and 8 replacements identified. This may be done through a match programme. An e team sheet must also be submitted to the Ulster Branch (IRFU) in respect of each fixture in all competitions. All match jerseys worn in the Danske Bank Schools' Cup should display the Danske Bank arm patch which will be supplied to all participating schools.
19. Each team must have eight, and only eight, toggled out replacements, all of whom may play. A minimum of three Front Row Players must be included in each Match squad as replacements numbered 16 - 18, such that (a) on the first occasion that a replacement hooker is required, (b) on the first occasion that a replacement tight-head prop forward is required, and (c) on the first occasion that a replacement loose-head prop forward is required (in each case whether due to injury or a Player being Temporarily Suspended or sent off), a replacement can be made and the Club's team can continue to play safely with contested scrums.

## MEDICAL

20. The decision of the extent or seriousness of a player's injury, including concussion, should be taken by the Team Coach or a Medical Officer, if present. However, Schools should be reminded of Law 3.9 which states *"If the referee decides – with or without the advice of a doctor or other medically qualified person – that a player is so injured that the player should stop playing, the referee may order that player to leave the playing area. The referee may also order an injured player to leave the field in order to be medically examined."*



## DISCIPLINARY

21. Referees for all 1<sup>st</sup> XV competitions will be appointed by the USRFR and, when possible, for other competitions. The Branch Office should be informed of the venue and time of kick-off for each game as soon as possible. The home school should make contact with the referee to confirm arrangements
22. Each school shall appoint a Touch Judge who must be an adult, preferably a teacher at the school. Neutral touch judges and/or fourth officials may be appointed at the discretion of the Schools' Committee Officers.
23. In the event of a player being dismissed the Ulster Branch MUST be informed as soon as possible via the Principal's Representative, Stephen Black, Ballymena Academy. (028 2565 2782 or 07808401543). Normal Schools' protocol, as detailed below, will apply:
  - (i) the dismissal should be reported to the Principals' Representative within two days of the game taking place. Following such a dismissal the player will be unable to play until the appropriate sanction has been agreed as per (ii) and (iii) below.
  - (ii) Principals of the schools participating in the fixture should discuss the incident, following consultation with their respective Master i/c Rugby as appropriate, and seek to reach agreement on a suitable sanction, using Age Grade Specific Sanction Recommendations, for the player. If such agreement is reached, the proposed sanction shall be reported to the Principals' Representative who will then consider if the sanction appears to be appropriate. If so no further action will need to be taken and the sanction, as agreed, will apply.
  - (iii) In the event that there is no agreement reached between the Principals or in the event that the Principals' Representative, in consultation with Schools' Committee Officers, deems that the sanction is inappropriate, a Disciplinary Meeting will take place in the School as defined in the IRFU Framework Document and subsequent protocols within the Framework will be followed.
  - (iv) In the event that a red card is contested then this will automatically follow the IRFU Framework and a Disciplinary Panel will be convened to address this as shown.
  - (v) In the event that serious foul play has been alleged to have taken place, and where no red card has been issued, such an allegation should be reported within 48 hours of the alleged incident to the Principals' Representative. If the allegation is supported by a letter signed by the School Principal and the Master i/c Rugby then the alleged incident will be addressed using the protocols above and a sanction implemented as appropriate.
24. The 'sin bin' or 'yellow card' is operative in Ulster Schools' Rugby for U18 and Medallion Shield competitions (7 mins for U18 and 5 mins for U15).
25. Schools are asked to ensure that teams and supporters are fully supervised by staff at all times especially when visiting other schools and neutral venues.

## ORGANISATIONAL GUIDELINES

26. The visiting Team should advise their hosts of the number of buses expected i.e. team and supporters buses. The hosts should arrange parking for the buses and, if necessary, notify the local police. Health and safety is paramount. Hosts should also designate an official to meet and greet visiting schools.
27. Both schools should ensure that all supporters are supervised by Staff at all times for fixtures played at school venues. In respect of fixtures at Kingspan Stadium, please refer to regulation 32.
28. A rope to keep spectators away from the touchline should be set up on both sides of the pitch and, if necessary the ends, for all four 1<sup>st</sup> XV competitions and any high profile Medallion Shield games.



29. Spectators should respect the opposition and behave accordingly especially during kicks at goal. Verbal abuse should not be directed at opposition players, coaches or spectators and supervising staff should take action to deal with any examples of this behaviour.
30. Technical areas should be marked out for coaching teams and replacements. These should be nine metres long and 3 metres wide and not less than 2 metres from the touchline. In the absence of such areas replacements must remain behind the roped off area. All coaches must remain inside the designated Technical Zone for the duration of the game. The only exception is when a coach may have to go onto the field of play to attend to an injured player. Other than replacement players, a maximum of four persons should be within the technical zone.
31. All replacements should have bibs of a neutral colour (not track suit tops). Replacements may only warm up between the 15 metre lines in the in goal area that their team is attacking and must not stay static.
32. In respect of fixtures played at Kingspan Stadium the following will apply
- Tickets will only be sold to schools on the basis that pupils will be bused to the ground from pre-selected locations i.e. either from the school or another location. Such pupils must be fully supervised at all times;
  - An appropriate number of staff must be provided by schools, the numbers and stadium location to be agreed and approved in advance by the Ulster Branch, to steward pupils and supporters;
  - There will now be a policy of no pitch invasion by any supporters whatsoever.
  - The Ulster Branch and School Stewards should seek to deter any pitch invasion. Should this happen, every effort should be made by both the School and the Ulster Branch to identify those responsible and ensure that they are appropriately dealt with. At the end of the game, the successful School could bring the cup to their supporters around the ground;
  - A "cordon sanitaire" will be established around the Players' Tunnel, with no supporters allowed in that area;
  - Only four persons from each school will be permitted within the enclosed pitch area and must remain within the designated technical zone except when attending to injuries.
  - Each team's 8 replacement players must occupy the seats in the dugout directly behind the allocated technical zone.
  - The Committee Box and main Grandstand will continue to be used, as before, for Boards of Governors, senior staff, senior Ulster Branch members.
  - The Stadium Manager will, in advance of each game, check to ensure full communication between all partners responsible for managing and stewarding the game;
  - Before each game at the Stadium, every school must commit to read out an agreed script at School Assembly, reminding pupils of the requirements above, and warning that any breach e.g. invasion of the pitch, will result in serious sanctions;
- Branch staff must ensure that any breaches of pre-match protocols are immediately brought to the attention of the offending team's head coach and that the team conforms to the protocols. The Schools Committee will be notified accordingly.



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### **Rules and Regulations 2016-2017**

We acknowledge receipt of the Rules and Regulations 2016-2017 and our commitment to honour the terms and conditions of the Rules and Regulations.

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Signatures: \_\_\_\_\_ School Principal

\_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> XV Coach/Master i/c Rugby

Please return this acknowledgement by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016 to Stephen Black, Chairman Ulster Schools' Committee, Ulster Branch (IRFU), c/o Ballymena Academy