



**Senior Women's
Cup Competition**

2021



Cup Rules and Regulations

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1. Description

a. The Competition will be called “The WRU Women’s Knockout Competition” (hereinafter “the Competition”)

2. Format

a. The Competition will comprise of 3 Tiers:

- i. North Wales Cup
- ii. South Wales Cup
- iii. South Wales Plate

b. Qualifications for Finals

North Wales Cup - 1st in NW1 vs 2nd in NW1 South

Wales Cup - 1st in West 1 vs 1st in East 1 South

Wales Plate - 1st in East 3 vs first in West 3

Phase 2 regroupings

North Wales Cup		South Wales Cup		South Wales Plate	
NW 1	West 1	East 1	East 3	West 3	
1st in NWA	1st in West 1A	1st in East 1A	1st in East 2A	1st in West 2A	
1st in NWB	1st in West 1B	1st in East 1B	1st in East 2B	1st in West 2B	
2nd in NWA	Best 2nd Place from West 1A and 1B		2nd in East 1A	2nd in East 2A	2nd in West 2A
2nd in NWB			2nd in East 1B	2nd in East 2B	2nd in West 2B
NW 2	West 2	East 2	East 4	West 4	
3rd in NWA	2nd places runner up from West 1a and 1B		3rd in East 1A	3rd in East 2A	3rd in West 2A
3rd in NWB	3rd place 1A		3rd in East 1B	3rd in East 2B	3rd in West 2B
4th in NWA	3rd place 1B		4th in East 1A	4th in East 2A	4th in West 2A
4th in NWB			4th in East 1B	4th in East 2B	4th in West 2B
				5th in East 2A	
				5th in East 2A	



Dates for round 2

- Round 1 - 21st of November
- Round 2 - 28th of November
- Round 3 – 12th of December
- Round 4 – 19th of December
- Round 5 – 9th of January
- Round 6- 16th of January

End of January/February used as a break/Catch up with the league to start on 6th of March

3. Entry conditions

- a. Clubs that enter the competition must have registered their team with the WRU

- b. Clubs participating in the competition must comply with:
 - i. The rules contained herewith
 - ii. The regulations and resolutions of the WRU
 - iii. The by-laws, resolutions and regulations relating to the game of World Rugby
 - i. The Laws of the Game
 - ii. WRU Entry Criteria

4. Responsibilities for organisation

- a. The Cup will be organised and administered by the WRU

 - b. The WRU shall carry out the organisation and administration of the cup through the appointment of a Competition Secretary and a Competition Management Committee.

 - c. The Competition Secretary shall organise the cup on a day-to-day basis
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- d. The Competition Management Committee shall consider matters of policy and settle disputes relating to the rules contained herein as they arise.
 - e. When cases of an urgent nature occur the Chair of the Competitions Management Committee, in consultation with the Competition Secretary, shall have absolute discretion to deal with these cases. Decisions made by the Chair and the Competition Secretary in such cases shall be binding

5. Eligibility to participate

a. Clubs

- i. The club to which the Club/Hub is affiliated must have registered its team with the WRU before it shall be eligible to play in the cup

b. Players

- i. No player may represent a club in any of the competitions unless she is a registered member of that club, or a permit has been granted – See below 5.b.iii
 - ii. A player may represent two different clubs in the pool stages of the competition.
 - iii. Permit players are not allowed in the competition unless permission is granted and approved via MyWRU.
 - iv. If a club plays an unregistered or ineligible player it may be disqualified from the competition
 - v. All players must be named on the team sheet submitted to the referee prior to the match and added electronically via MyWRU.
 - vi. Clubs may permit a maximum of 4 players per fixture for this period there will be no limits on the number of permits in the initial stage of competition. We will review the integration of this regulation at the end of phase one. Permit players must not start ahead of any players registered with the club.
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vii. Players cannot be permitted from teams in the Cup to the Plate however players playing in the Plate can be permitted to teams playing in the Cup

6. Finance

- a. Home teams will retain all gate receipts for Knockout matches
- b. The away teams will be responsible to meet the costs of their travel to play Knockout matches
- c. For journeys over 60 miles (round trip), the WRU will make a contribution of £2.10 per mile however the WRU will cover the cost of transport for all of the respective Finals.

7. General rules

a. Fixtures.

- i. **Postponed Matches:** Postponed matches due to adverse ground or weather conditions must be played on the next available Sunday or midweek should there be mutual agreement. If a game is not played due to a team unable to play, then during the Pool stages the opposing team will be awarded 5 points and a 20-0 victory. Should it be during the knockout stages then the opposing team will progress to the next round.
 - ii. **Abandoned Matches:** All matches must be played to full time. The Referee is to be the sole judge of the amount of time played. If a match is abandoned before full time and the difference in score be 30 or more points then the result of the tie shall stand. This is regardless of whether both teams agree or not. If the difference in score is 29 points or less it must be replayed within 10 days, either at the
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original venue or at a venue and time determined by the Home Club **unless both Clubs agree the score, at the time of the abandonment, should stand.** The WRU has the discretion to extend the 10-day period in the event of exceptional circumstances.

- iii. **Rearranged Matches:** Participating Clubs are entitled to rearrange matches that are either postponed or abandoned due to adverse ground or weather conditions. However, if after two attempts both Clubs are unable to rearrange the match, the Competitions Management Committee has the absolute discretion to determine the venue at which the rearranged match will be staged.

 - iv. **Covid-19 Related Postponements:** Should a team be unable to play due to Covid-19 related reasons, then evidence will need to be produced to the Rugby Operations department to collaborate this and should it be satisfactory then the fixture will be rearranged for the next available Sunday following a proper isolation period. Should the game not be played due to anything other than adverse ground or weather conditions then the team unable to fulfil the fixture will forfeit the game and their opponents awarded a bonus point 20-0 win in the Pool Stages and qualification to the next round in the Knockout stages

 - v. Where a club is at fault for cancelling a fixture without a satisfactory reason, the club will not be sanctioned and the opposing team for the scheduled fixture will receive 5 points and a 20-0 win.

 - v. If the home side's pitch is unplayable, the away side has the opportunity to reverse the tie however both teams must be in agreement in order for it to be reversed.
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b. Declaration of winners

- i. The phase 2 qualification is found above. Should clubs be on the same number of points then the following will be used to determine the higher placed team in the following order:-
 - Number of wins
 - Fewest losses
 - Tries scored
 - Tries conceded
 - If all of the above are identical then points scored will be divided by their points conceded with the team with the highest going through.
 - ii. Winners of the matches in finals will be the club which has scored the greatest number of points at full time
 - ii. In the event of an equal number of points being scored by each club at the end of the match, winners will be declared in the following priority:-
 - a. The club which has scored the greater number of tries
 - b. The club which has scored the greater number of goals (converted tries)
 - i. If after ii.a. and ii.b. have been applied and no clear winner has emerged, extra time of 20 minutes (10 minutes each way) will be played and the winners declared in accordance with i. and ii.a. and ii.b
 - ii. In the final the result shall be declared a draw and the Cup/Plate will be held by each club for six months.
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c. Duration of play

- i. Each Senior match will be 80 minutes playing time, that is 40 minutes each half (Laws of the Game – Law 5.1). At half time, an interval of no more than 10 minutes is allowed.

d. Player numbers and replacements

- i. If a team names 15 players only, there is no requirement to name more than 3 players capable of playing in front row positions
 - ii. If a team names 16, 17 or 18 players, 3 must be capable of playing in the front row i.e. if a team starts with a contested front row it may name 3 substitutes
 - iii. If a team names 19, 20, 21, or 22 players, 4 must be capable of playing in the front row i.e. if a team has 1 front row replacements it may name 7 replacements
 - iv. Front row replacements must be listed on the team sheet prior to the match
 - v. If a referee deems during a match that it is unsafe to continue scrummaging and calls uncontested scrums, Teams may still use replacements depending on the number of front row players in the match day squad at the start of the game
 - vi. If a club elects to play uncontested scrummages that club will not forfeit the match. Cup matches may start using uncontested scrummages.
 - vii. The team electing to play with non-contested scrummages will be allowed to have a maximum of 2 replacements.
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- viii. Substituted players may return to the field providing they were not replaced due to a head injury or an injury a referee may deem as unsafe for that player to continue.

e. Match results

- i. Both clubs must advise the Competition Secretary of the results of any matches played by email no later than 6pm on the same day following a match.
- ii. Both clubs playing in a match must send the completed results sheet by email to the Competition Secretary by 6pm on the same day following a fixture.

f. Protests and disputes

- i. Protests or disputes in respect of competition matches whether provided for within this set of rules or not must be brought to the attention of the Competition Secretary within 24 hours of the match and confirmed in writing to the Competition Secretary within 48 hours of the match. The Competition Management Committee will be convened to consider each such protest or dispute within 7 days of receipt by the Competition Secretary of the complaint

c. Penalties and sanctions

- i. The Competition Management Committee shall in cases where it finds a club in default of the rules herein have authority to impose sanctions upon a club however this will not be implemented for unfulfilled fixtures. The range of the available sanctions shall be:-
 - a. The imposition of a fine
 - b. The disqualification of a club from the competition
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h. Miscellaneous provisions

- i. In the event of a team being short of players a match can be played with a minimum of 12 players in a team. If a match starts with one team fielding less than 15 players, the other team must reduce its numbers to match. If, because of injuries the team that has started with only 12 players is further reduced in numbers the match may continue provided that the team can maintain a front row and second row even if it has elected to play with uncontested scrums. There is no obligation on the opposition to reduce numbers also.
 - ii. Teams must inform opposition at the soonest possible time if they are likely to begin a match with less than 15 players
 - iii. Signed team sheets to be handed to the match official prior to the game and the match officials decision is final. All disputes are to be brought to the attention of the Competition Secretary
 - iv. Finals venues to be determined by the WRU. The WRU will determine the venue for the final of the Competitions.
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