Leicestershire Rugby Union
Age Grade Rugby



Age Grade Competition Rules
Under 14 to U18

1. Aim 3
2. Organisation and management 3
3. Eligibility of clubs 3
4. Applications 4
5. The draw 4
6. Fixtures 4
7. Postponements 4
8. Location 5
9. Pitches 5
10. Club officials 5
11. Match officials 6
12. First aiders 6
13. Registration and eligibility of players 6
14. Kit 6
15. Teams 7
16. Team sheets 7
17. Match results 8
18. Welfare and conduct 8
19. Protests, Disputes and Appeals 8
20. References 9
21. Revisions 9

1. Aim

1.1. The aim of The Leicestershire Rugby Union (LRU) age grade competitions is to provide a competitive environment for as many age grade players as possible.

2. Organisation and management

2.1. The LRU will organise a knockout competition for the age groups under 14s, under 15s, under 16s, under 17s and under 18s

2.2. The competitions will be overseen by the LRU Age Grade competition committee (hereafter referred to as 'the committee')

2.3. The competitions will be administered by the LRU age grade competition secretary, (hereafter referred to as competition secretary.

2.4. All matches shall be played under the laws and regulations of the game as stated by.

- 2.4.1. International Rugby Board (IRB)
- 2.4.2. RFU Regulations, specifically regulation 15
- 2.4.3. Local law variations, England.
- 2.4.4. County age grade competition rules as set out by the LRU.

2.5. Information regarding the organisation and progress of the competition will be produced at regular intervals during the season and will be available on the RFU results page and LRU Website.

2.6. The format of the competition will be set annually in accordance with the number of entries received.

2.7. Under 17s Competition

- 2.7.1. Will be played mid-week.
- 2.7.2. Will be a floodlit competition.
- 2.7.3. Will be a transition event for a joint team of under 16s and under 17s.

3. Eligibility of clubs

3.1. The competition is only open to clubs with membership of the LRU.

3.2. Clubs may only enter one team in each age category of competition.

3.3. If insufficient teams are available to produce a viable competition, the competition secretary may invite teams from outside of the LRU to compete.

3.4. Joint club entries are permitted to allow clubs at a particular age grade to jointly raise a team.

3.5. The colts cup the draw will only be open to teams that have entered that seasons Leicestershire colts league.

4. Applications

4.1. Entries for all competitions should be received by the competition's secretary by 1st August for the season starting in September of the same year.

4.2. In exceptional circumstances a club may be permitted to enter late at the discretion of the competition secretary, with the following provisos.

4.2.1. This entry must be at least 14 days prior to the date of the first round.

4.2.2. A team with a bye is available for which they can be matched.

4.2.3. The competition can be adjusted without disproportionate consequences or disruption.

4.3. Entry to each age grade competition is subject to a single non-refundable £40 entry fee plus VAT per team, per age group U14's to U18's. payment must be made prior to the first draw.

4.4. Fines will replace deposits and will cover and not limited to, registration issues, team sheets and results issues as well as club and spectator behaviour.

5. The draw

5.1. This draw for the age grade cup will determine opponents in the first round and all subsequent rounds of the competition.

5.2. The draw will take place in the first week of the age grade season or before if entries are in.

5.3. The first named club to be drawn shall be the home team.

5.4. All teams will re-enter the draw and be redrawn for each round.

6. Fixtures

6.1. The competition secretary will fix the date of each age grade competition match taking account of the RFU playing calendar.

6.2. Fixtures should be played at latest on the date specified by the competition secretary.

6.3. Fixtures will be added to GMS by the competition secretary.

6.4. Fixtures shall be confirmed by both teams a minimum of 7 days prior to the match date.

7. Postponements

7.1. Matches may be postponed if in the opinion of the home club the pitch is unplayable and is unlikely to become playable within a reasonable timescale.

7.2. Matches may be postponed if, in the opinion of the referee, the pitch is unplayable and is unlikely to become playable within a reasonable timescale.

7.3. In the event of a postponed match the two clubs are required to play the match within one calendar week while taking account of the RFU playing calendar.

7.4. The playing of postponed matches will take priority over all other fixtures other than RFU organized fixtures.

7.4.1. Order of priority:

National cup

Leicestershire competition

Leicestershire league

other competitions and fixtures.

7.5. The competition secretary reserves the right to impose a date and or venue which a postponed match is to be played if the two clubs are unable to agree a date or venue.

7.6. The competition secretary should be notified the same day the match has been postponed.

7.7. The competition secretary should be notified of the rearranged fixture date by no later than 48 hours after time the game was postponed.

7.8. If a game cannot be played, then the committee will decide on the result after looking at all the facts.

8. Location

8.1. All matches should be played within the LRU catchment.

8.2. The venue for the match shall be the ground of the home team.

8.3. Matches may be played at an alternative location by prior agreement of both clubs.

8.4. Fixtures played at alternative venues will still have the same team as the home team.

8.5. The competition's secretary reserves the right to organise the match at the away teams ground or a neutral venue in the event of an unfit pitch at the originally designated home club and the fixture cannot be played within the timescales required.

8.6. For fixtures played in floodlit conditions the home team must provide a pitch that has suitable flood lights. If not, the tie will be reversed and 8.4 apply.

8.7. The committee will decide the times, dates and venues for the finals.

9. Pitches

9.1. Pitches should be marked as per IRB regulations.

9.2. Posts should have suitable post protection.

9.3. Flags should be situated as per IRB regulations.

9.4. Pitches will be roped off to stop spectators from encroaching into the playing area.

9.5. A technical area for each team will be provided.

9.5.1. Is to be the opposite side to supporters.

9.5.2. Is to be clearly marked, cones or white lines may be used.

9.5.3. Is to be positioned so the nearest edge is a minimum of 4 meters from the halfway line.

9.5.4. Should be a minimum of 2 meters wide and a max of 5 meters long.

9.5.5. Is to be a safe distance back from the touchline.

10. Club officials

10.1. Each team may have up to three nominated coaches pitch side.

10.1.1. One of the coaches should act as touch judge.

10.2. Coaches may not enter the field of play, unless instructed by the referee.

10.3. Coaches should always remain in the technical area. They should not leave the area for any reason during the match, this includes but not limited to:

10.3.1. Conversions.

10.3.2. Restarts.

10.3.3. Breaks in play.

10.3.4. Players warming up during the match.

10.3.5. Water breaks.

10.4. Tees and water bottles should be carried onto the pitch by a replacement player.

11. Match officials

11.1. The home team should provide a Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees (LSRUR) Referee.

11.2. If a LSRUR referee is not available, the coaches or managers of the teams should agree upon a referee.

- 11.2.1. Must be suitably qualified.
- 11.2.2. Must have a valid DBS.

11.3. Each team will provide one touch judge.

- 11.3.1. The touch judge should be a coach.
- 11.3.2. If a coach is not available, it should be one of the reserve players.
- 11.3.3. The role of the touch judge is to be communicated prior to the game by the referee.
- 11.3.4. This would normally only be indicating where the ball has passed the line of touch. All other items will be solely arbitrated by the referee.
- 11.3.5. Touch judges should not coach from the side lines.

11.4. For finals a team of three will be provided by LSRUR.

11.5. Any red card issued by a club referee should be reported to the LRU disciplinary panel.

12. First aiders

12.1. Each team will have one qualified first aider pitch side. One first aider may cover both teams by mutual agreement.

12.2. The first aider should remain in the technical area, unless required for an Injury on the pitch.

12.3. The first aider must be wearing a highly visible top with the words first aid clearly marked.

12.4. The final decision on any head injury lies with the referee. If in doubt sit them out.

13. Registration and eligibility of players

13.1. All Players must be registered as players with the club they are representing

13.2. Joint clubs: The players of each club must be registered as players for both the clubs they are representing.

13.3. All players taking part in the competition must comply with the age band requirements as defined in RFU Regulation 15.

13.4. A player may only represent one club in each knockout competition.

13.5. If a team fields an unregistered player or one outside their permitted age grade, the team will be disqualified from the competition for the season the offence took place.

13.6. Under 17s competition.

- 13.6.1. Under 16s will be signed up to play in the U17's age group, in line with current guidelines from RFU regulation 15.
- 13.6.2. Completed an LRU assessment sheet for each player, available online at the LRU Website.
- 13.6.3 All players to be allocated to that team on GMS.

14. Kit

14.1. In the event of clubs having similar coloured playing kit, the home team shall change its colours.

14.2. All players must have a differing number on the back of their jerseys.

15. Teams

15.1. Squads may be up to 23 players.

15.2. All reserves must stay in the technical area, unless warming up or nominated a touch judge.

15.3. Where a team is unable to field a suitably competent front row at the start of the match, they will forfeit the tie.

15.4. Front row replacements

Squad size		Reserves		Front row	
Max	Min	Max	Min	Front row competent	Must be able to replace at the first time of asking
23	22	8	7	6	Loose-head prop, tight-head prop and hooker
21	19	6	4	5	Both a prop and a hooker
18	16	3	1	4	Either a prop or a hooker
-	15	0	0	3	-

15.5. If a front row replacement is required and the team nominates for passive scrummages based on insufficient front row players, and this is inconsistent with the number of front row replacements required in 15.4 then that team will forfeit the match.

15.6. Passive scrummages may be initiated by the referee, at any time during the match. This will not result in forfeiting the match.

15.7. Front row players who have left the field due to injury to the head, neck, shoulder or back cannot return to the field in another position.

15.7.1. Clubs found not to have followed this requirement may be disqualified from the competition for the season the offence took place.

15.8. U17s competition

15.8.1. The number under 16s on the pitch at any time shall be greater than or equal to the number of under 17s

16. Team sheets

16.1. Team sheets should be confirmed on GMS at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the game.

16.2. U17s players should be assigned to an U17s team.

17. Match results

17.1. In all rounds leading up to the final, If at the end of normal playing time the scores are level, the away team shall be declared the winner.

17.2. If a final ends as a drawn match, the trophy will be shared.

17.3. No extra time shall be played.

17.4. If the match score is such that one team has a 50 points differential over their opposition, then match score at this point will be the declared result.

17.4.1. With the agreement of the referee and both teams, the match may continue to the end of 'normal playing time' for that age grade.

17.4.2. Any additional scores will not be recorded.

17.5. The losing teams in their first Game of the U14, U15, U16 will be entered into the Plate competition.

17.5.1. This will only apply if a plate competition was arranged at the start of the season.

17.5.2. This will only apply where the playing calendar permits.

17.6. In any round a team may declare a forfeit. 17.5 will apply if it is in round one or two.

17.7. Where a team fails to fulfil a county match commitment, the match will be awarded to the opposition. 17.5 will apply to the team not fulfilling the fixture.

17.8. Where a team fails to fulfil a county competition, and is observed to play an alternative fixture the club will be liable for a sanction of £80

17.9. All results should be submitted on GMS on the date of the fixture.

17.10. If a game is abandoned due to an on-field injury, if the game has passed the ¾ time mark, the result will stand and not be replayed. Refer to postponements for information on rearranging.

17.10.1.1.	Under 14	= 37mins
17.10.1.2.	Under 15	= 45 mins
17.10.1.3.	Under 16-18	= 53 mins

18. Welfare and conduct

18.1. Where players have played a game of rugby on the previous day, a risk assessment should be undertaken by their club and parental consent should be obtained by signing the risk assessment, for their participation in an LRU competition.

18.2. The playing time of matches will be as defined in RFU Regulation 15.

18.3. In line with RFU regulation 21 all coaches, managers, first aiders and referees must have a valid RFU DBS.

18.4. The teams playing are responsible for the behaviour of spectators.

19. Protests, Disputes and Appeals

19.1. Any matters in dispute or any perceived breach of these rules is to be reported in writing to the LRU Age Grade Competition secretary within 48 hours of the alleged incident. competitions@leicestershirerugbyunion.co.uk

19.2. The competition secretary, competition committee and the LRU Age Grade Chair have the right to exclude any club or team from LRU competitions if that club or team has not complied with the Regulations of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) or has not played within the spirit and ethos of the Laws of the Game.

19.3. Initial decisions and interpretations on all matters regarding to the competitions will be made by the LRU AGR Competition secretary.

19.3.1. An informal right of appeal is available on any such decisions. This should be made in writing to agrchair@leicestershirerugbyunion.co.uk within 3 days of the secretary's decision.

19.3.2. A formal appeal may be lodged with the LRU Executive Committee. This must be lodged in writing by the appellant club's Age Grade Chair at the latest 7 days after being notified. Send to hon-sec@leicestershirerugbyunion.co.uk

20. References

20.1. All references to RFU Regulation 15 Age Grade Rugby include the appendices and supplementary information.

20.2. The age grade RFU AGR Code of Practice should be used in conjunction with Regulation 15.

20.3. IRB World rugby laws

21. Revisions

Revision	Date	Amendment	By
A	14-02-25	First Issue	D. Callaghan
B	18-04-25	Second issue	D. Eabry
C	01-09-25	Third Issue	D. Eabry