

Devon Cup Competitions Structure and Regulations -

2025/2026

ADMINISTRATION

The Devon RFU competitions committee will administer the competitions. One of the members of this committee shall act as competitions chairman and one member shall act as competitions secretary. The committee shall have full powers of adjudicating on all matters relating to the competitions. Any appeal against their decisions must be lodged with the Hon. secretary of the Devon RFU within 48 hours of the decision in question. All appeals must be accompanied by an administration fee of £50 payable to Devon RFU Ltd which shall be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

With effect from 2025/26 season, the Cup Competitions will be as follows;

- All teams will have the opportunity to play in the Devon Cup Competitions. This is done by the clubs requesting entry, as per the letter sent to all clubs sent out on the 7th of July.
 - We maintain the eligibility for entry, i.e. level 5 and below
 - Following a decision by Devon RFU Second teams playing at level 7 and above play in the Cup relevant to the league they are in.
1. Devon Senior Cup –
 - a. The top 8 Clubs based on how they finished last season.
 - b. Losing teams in 1st Round play for the Devon Senior Shield.
 2. Devon Intermediate Cup - Exactly as DSC with the next 8 teams
Losing teams in 1st Round play for the Devon Plate
 3. Devon Junior Cup –
As per Senior and Junior Cup although with the remaining teams.
Losing teams in 1st Round play for the Devon Bowl
 4. The 2nd XV Cup open to Clubs playing in the English Clubs championship at level 8 & below
 5. In all Competitions, the draw to be completely random with no 'seeding'
 6. One off knock out competitions
 7. The home team is decided by the Draw.
 8. The venues for the Finals will drawn nearer the dates of the finals.

MATCH REGULATIONS

Unless otherwise agreed, Cup ties in ALL competitions must be played on the same dates as laid out.

In the semi-finals and Finals, if a draw after 80 minutes, a period of extra-time of 10 minutes each way will be played. If still a draw then the team that has scored most tries shall be deemed the winner. If that is equal then the team that has scored most conversions from tries will be deemed the winner. In the semi-finals, if still a draw the AWAY side will proceed to the final.

In the final if the teams cannot be separated, then the Trophy will be shared.

REPLACEMENTS

All Cup games are played under the cup regulations, a maximum of **five replacements for all games. For the finals it is increased to seven.**

During the cup round games **FOUR** players in the squad should be qualified to play in the FRONT ROW and for the finals it is increased to **FIVE**.

In the event that a team has no suitably qualified front-row replacement at the start of the game, then the offending team shall forfeit the game. In the event that a team has complied with the regulation relating to front row forwards and runs out of replacements, the referee will order the game to be continued with non-contested scrums. In such cases, the offending team shall drop a player but must still continue with eight players in the scrum.

SCORING

The same scoring system as per the English Clubs Championship shall apply.

RESULTS / MATCH RESULT CARDS

Results of ALL matches will be taken from match cards that will be issued by the Devon Competitions Administrator (If we can get them onto GMS we will), also the relevant Competition Administrator **MUST** be notified by 6pm on the day of the match. It is the responsibility of the home team officials to report the correct result, including the number of tries scored by each team.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

All players must be bona-fide members of the club and should be on the GMS database of that Club.

A player who has played for a club in any round of ANY competition may **not** play for another club in any of the competitions in the same season.

Any club with any doubt concerning the eligibility of a player shall apply to the Devon RFU Competitions Sub-committee for a decision which shall be binding on that club.

WITHDRAWALS

At the discretion of the Devon RFU Competitions Sub Committee, any Club/team that withdraws from any Competition may not be eligible to compete in any of the Devon RFU Cup Competitions the following season.

ABANDONED MATCHES

If a match is abandoned for safety reasons or weather conditions, it shall be re- arranged within 48 hours in accordance with the regulations unless more than 60 minutes have been played, in which case the score at the time of abandonment shall stand and be deemed to be the final score. If a match is abandoned for foul play at any time, the tie will be void and neither club shall progress into the next round unless in his report the referee indicates that the conduct of only one club caused him to abandon the match. In this case the other club shall advance into the next round. The referee's decision for the necessity of abandonment and the number of minutes played shall be final.

If a match is abandoned for any reason other than above, then, irrespective of the number of minutes played, the result of that match may be determined by the competitions sub-committee or it may order the match to be replayed.

SECOND TEAM COMPETITIONS.

Clubs **MUST** ensure that those players that 'regularly' play in their First teams **DO NOT** play in Second team cup Semi-Finals or Finals. This will be carefully checked and **COULD** lead to 'Disqualification' from this and next year's competitions. We will check this by reviewing those who 'Regularly' for the separate teams on and via GMS.

COLOURS

In the event of clubs having clashing or similar colours, the away team must arrange to change its own colours.

REFEREES

The Devon Rugby Referees Society shall appoint a referee for matches in the competitions where appropriate throughout the season and shall appoint touch-judges for all semi-final matches and the final. Referees may be invited from outside the county on the official exchange system.

Please Note, for this season, Clubs will be required to add their Cup fixtures onto GMS manually. This is how WhosTheRef pick up the games and appoint officials. If you do not add the games to GMS then you may not have a referee appointed.

VENUE and conditions for hosting the FINALS.

These will be decided by a draw by the President of Devon RFU and the Competitions committee.

To be able to host a Devon Final a Club **MUST** be able comply with the following;

- Able and willing to have a gate entry charge with a minimum of £5 entry and this will be an **ALL PAY** game.
- Provide pre match and post-match (Players) hospitality to the 2 clubs, officials, players and the Devon RFU representative
- The club, **MUST** have no debt to the Devon RFU. The club **MUST** have submitted its annual financial report and accounts for the most recent year.
- **If a club does not comply with any of these requirements, the final WILL be switched to the opposing team, or an alternative venue WILL be found by Devon RFU**

FINANCE

The gate receipts for all the finals including income from the sale of programmes shall be divided equally between Devon RFU Ltd and the two participating clubs after deduction of charges for the match officials and the costs of producing a programme. The hosting club is responsible for the food costs.

- The secretary of the home club shall be responsible for submitting draft arrangements for the match to the competitions chair for approval by the sub-committee and within 14 days prior of the match being played.
- The Treasurer of the home club must submit to the Treasurer of DRFU a balance sheet showing all receipts, permitted expenditure and distribution of income, within 14 days of the final taking place. If this cannot be achieved, it is the responsibility of the home club Treasurer to Notify the Devon Treasurer and agree a new time-line.
- All cup matches should be considered as ALL PAY. In the event that a Club does not have the facilities to enable a gate to be charged, the Devon RFU reserves the right to change the venue to an alternative ground where such facility is available.

DISPUTES

All objections regarding alleged breaches of the regulations must reach the relevant competitions administrator not later than 48 hours after the end of the match in question and must be in writing accompanied by an administration fee of £50 payable to the Devon Rugby Football Union Ltd. This fee will be returned if the objection is upheld.

LAWS

All matches shall be played under the Laws of the Game as published by the RFU and regulations contained therein or otherwise in force in respect of replacements and substitutions.

REVIEW -These rules will be reviewed by the committee at the termination of each competition.

Chris Forster

Chair of Devon Competitions

August 2025