



National Competition Rules

Season 2026/27

Applicable to:

(Men's) Premiership

(Men's) National League Division 1

(Men's) National League Division 2

(Men's) National League Division 3

(Men's) National League Division 4



Scottish Rugby National Competition Rules

Season 2026/27

1 DEFINITIONS

‘Board’	means the Scottish Rugby Club Rugby Board, or any sub-committee of the Board operating under the specific authority of the Board.
‘Best Playing Record Calculation (“BPRC”)	means average Competition Points gained in completed Matches multiplied by total Matches possible (e.g. a Club plays in 15 of its 22 possible Matches, achieving 34 Competition Points: BPRC adjusted points = $34/15 \times 22 = 49.86$).
Championship Committee’	means the Scottish Rugby Championship Committee.
‘Championship Secretary’	means the person who deals with the day-to-day running of the Scottish Rugby Competitions.
‘Club’	means any club, team or other body (as the context may require) which participates in a Scottish Rugby Competition.
‘Club Investment Fund Standards’ (“CIF”)	means the minimum standards and requirements issued by Scottish Rugby from time to time.
‘Competitions’	means the Scottish Rugby league and knock-out competitions designated by the Board from time to time and listed in Appendix 1.
‘Competitions Committee’	means a committee elected or appointed to assist in the organisation of an individual Scottish Rugby Competition.
‘Competition Secretary’	means the person appointed by Scottish Rugby to act as Secretary to a Scottish Rugby Competitions Committee.
‘Cup’ and ‘Women’s Cup’	means such knock-out competitions as are designated as Scottish Rugby Competitions by the Board and as the context may require.
‘Emergency Loan Player’	means a player permitted to participate for a club by virtue of Rules 5.27-5.29.
‘Game On’	means the Law variations approved for use in certain Scottish Rugby Competitions, as further detailed on the Scottish Rugby website.
‘International Clearance’	means the formal process under World Rugby Regulation 4 and Scottish Domestic Regulation 4.2 (Clearance to Play in another Union) whereby a Player is granted permission by both Unions to change the Union within which they are registered to play.
‘Laws of the Game’	means the Laws of the Game as issued by World Rugby from time to time and a reference to a “Law” shall be to that Law as worded within the Laws of the Game.
‘Match’	means a match played or to be played in a Competition.
‘Player’	means any person who is named by a Club to participate in a Match.
‘Playing Enclosure’	means the Field of Play and the Perimeter Area as set out in Law 1.
‘Primary League Club’	means the Club which currently holds the Player’s registration and is responsible for maintaining all aspects of the Player’s registration details.
Pro Player	means a player contracted to Glasgow Warriors or Edinburgh Rugby
Pro Team Academy Player	means a player contracted to either Glasgow Warriors or Edinburgh Rugby Academy aged between 18-23yrs old
‘Regulations’	means any supplementary regulations provided or approved by the Board in respect of individual Competitions, or generally.
‘Rules’	means the Scottish Rugby Competition Rules approved by the Board from time to time.
‘Scottish Rugby’	means Scottish Rugby Union.
‘Secondary League Club’	means the one additional Club for which a Player is formally registered to play.
‘World Rugby’	means the game’s world governing body.

2 ORGANISATION AND APPLICATION

The Competition Rules

- 2.1 The Competitions shall be governed by the Rules.
- 2.2 The Rules and changes to them shall be subject to approval by the Board.
- 2.3 The Board may provide supplementary Regulations in respect of individual Competitions (see Appendix 1). The Board reserves the right to amend the Rules and Regulations from time to time.
- 2.4 The Board shall have the power to rectify any error or omission in the Rules and the Regulations in such manner as it deems fit.
- 2.5 In the Rules and Regulations, unless specified or the context otherwise requires, words importing any gender shall include all other genders, and importing singular shall, where appropriate, include plural.
- 2.6 Should any provision of the Rules or Regulations be held by any court or other competent authority to be illegal, void or unenforceable (in whole or in part) the remainder of the Rules and/or Regulations shall continue to be enforceable.

Championship Committee

- 2.7 The Club Rugby Board shall be assisted in the organisation of the Competitions by a Championship Committee. Membership of the Championship Committee shall comprise:
 - 2.7.1 the Championship Convenor (the “Convenor”) who shall be appointed by the Board;
 - 2.7.2 the Women’s Competitions Committee Convenor (appointed by the Board);
 - 2.7.3 the Reserve League Committee Convenor (appointed by the Board);
 - 2.7.4 one representative elected in accordance with the Championship Committee Election Rules from each of the following club groups: the Premiership; National League 1; National League 2, 3 and 4; the Caledonia Regional League; the East Regional League; and the West Regional League;
 - 2.7.5 a referees’ representative; and
 - 2.7.6 a schools and youth rugby representative.
- 2.8 Subject to Rule 14, The Championship Committee shall have the power to make decisions on all matters arising out of or in relation to the organisation, control and management of the Competitions (including as to eligibility and qualification) which shall be final and binding on all participants in the Competition. In relation to these and any other matters arising in relation to the Competition but not specifically mentioned in the National Competition Rules, the Championship Committee shall have the power to take such action and make such decisions, order, rulings and impose such penalties as it deems necessary and following such procedures as it considers appropriate and such shall, subject to Rule 14, be final and binding on all participants.
- 2.9 The Championship Committee shall have the authority to delegate any of its powers, duties or obligations under these Rules to any person, Competitions Committee, sub-committee or other body provided that it retains the ability to resume the exercise of those powers at any point. Delegation of powers, duties or obligations shall not prevent the Championship Committee from exercising those powers or undertaking those duties or obligations should the Championship Committee consider it necessary or appropriate to do so. References in the Rules and Regulations to a Competitions Committee shall be deemed to include the Championship Committee where the Championship Committee has itself elected to exercise that power.
- 2.10 Where by reason of the routine nature of the matter, or such urgency that a meeting of the Championship Committee cannot reasonably be arranged, and subject to any direction given by the Championship Committee, the Convenor may exercise any of the powers, discretions and/or authorities given to the Championship Committee under the Rules and Regulations.
- 2.11 The Championship Committee and the Convenor shall be assisted by a Competition Secretary appointed by Scottish Rugby.

Compliance

- 2.12 By agreeing to participate in a Competition the participating Club agrees to be bound by both the letter and the spirit of the Rules and Regulations, and such other Scottish Rugby Rules, Regulations, Policies or Procedures as may affect participation in competitions.

- 2.13 The participating Clubs shall ensure compliance by all of their Players and officials with applicable Rules and Regulations.
- 2.14 Participating Clubs shall comply with the Club Investment Fund Standards issued from time to time by Scottish Rugby unless a dispensation has been given to them by Scottish Rugby. Scottish Rugby shall have the power to suspend the participation rights of any Club which fails to meet or to maintain these Standards.
- 2.15 Except where a Scottish Rugby Policy, Rule or Regulation provides to the contrary, World Rugby's Laws of the Game of Rugby Football (the "Laws") and the World Rugby Regulations Relating to the Game shall apply.

3 COMPOSITION AND FORMAT OF THE LEAGUES

Premiership and National Leagues

- 3.1 The Premiership and National Leagues shall be administered by the Championship Committee.
- 3.2 The Premiership and the National Leagues shall comprise:
 - 3.2.1 a Premiership, to be contested by ten teams in one division;
 - 3.2.2 National League Division 1, to be contested by ten teams;
 - 3.2.3 National League Division 2, to be contested by ten teams;
 - 3.2.4 National League Division 3, to be contested by ten teams; and
 - 3.2.5 National League Division 4, to be contested by ten teams.
- 3.3 The Premiership shall be played in two stages.
 - 3.3.1 Stage 1: the Teams shall play each other on a home-and-away basis.
 - 3.3.2 Stage 2: the Teams finishing in places one to four at the end of Stage 1 shall contest a knock-out competition to decide the Premiership winners. The Teams ranked one and two shall play at home against the Teams ranked four and three respectively. The winners shall contest the Premiership Final, with the finalist placed higher at end of Stage 1 being the home Team. If the scores are level at full-time in any Stage 2 Match the Knock-Out Match Extra Time Rules (Rule 10.4) shall apply.
- 3.4 In National League divisions 1, 2, 3 and 4 the Teams shall play each other on a home-and-away basis.
- 3.5 The structure of the Premiership and the National Leagues, including the number of Teams in each division, shall ordinarily not be changed without a full playing season's notice being given by Scottish Rugby unless the Board specifically decides that a shorter period is necessary for the effective organisation and implementation of the National Competitions. Such notice must be accompanied by details as to how the new structure will be effected through revised promotion and relegation.
- 3.6 Subject to Rule 12.2:
 - 3.6.1 The Team winning the Premiership Final shall be the Scottish Champions.
 - 3.6.2 The Team finishing tenth in the Premiership shall be relegated to National League Division 1.
 - ~~3.6.3~~ The Team finishing first in National League Division 1 shall be promoted to the Premiership.
 - ~~3.6.3.6.4~~ The Team finishing ninth in Premiership Stage 1 and the Team finishing second in National League Division 1 shall meet in a Premiership Play Off Match with the Premiership team being the home team. The winner of the play-off shall play in the following season's Premiership, and the loser shall play in National League Division 1. If the scores are level at full-time the Knock-Out Match Extra Time Rules (Rule 10.4) shall apply.
 - ~~3.6.4.3.6.5~~ The Team finishing in first place in each of National League Division 2, Division 3 and Division 4 shall be promoted to National League Division 1, Division 2 and Division 3 respectively.
 - ~~3.6.5.3.6.6~~ The Team finishing in tenth place in National League Division 1 shall be relegated to National League Division 2.
 - ~~3.6.6.3.6.7~~ The Team finishing in tenth place in National League Division 2 shall be relegated to National League Division 3.
 - ~~3.6.7.3.6.8~~ The Team finishing in tenth place in National League Division 3 shall be relegated to National League Division 4.
 - ~~3.6.8.3.6.9~~ The Teams finishing in eighth, ninth and tenth places in National League Division 4 shall be

relegated to their respective Regional League Division 1.

4 FIXTURES

Date and Kick-Off Time

- 4.1 The date, time and the identity of the home and away Clubs in any Match shall be as determined and notified by the relevant Competition Secretary.
- 4.2 Matches shall be played on the date and at the time notified. By exception, and where both Clubs agree, either Club may make a written application to the Competition Secretary for a Match to be played at an alternative time or on an alternative date (including evenings and weekdays). Applications shall be made no later than 7 days prior to the scheduled kick-off time and must be accompanied by evidence as to the consent of both Clubs. Written permission/confirmation must be obtained from the relevant Competitions Committee Secretary. **Consideration will be given to timeous applications providing it involves no detrimental impact to the conclusion of league and competition schedule.** Applications received within 7 days prior to the scheduled kick off time may not be considered. Consideration will be given to timeous applications providing it involves no detrimental impact to the conclusion of league and competition schedule. Where, in the reasonable view of the Competition Committee, such concerns exist, the Competition Committee may refuse an application.
- 4.24.3 Matches taking place on the same day as a home international played by the senior men's Scotland team, shall normally kick-off no later than 2 hours prior to the international match kick-off. Where there is agreement between both teams for a Match to be played at an alternative time the relevant Championship or Competition Committee Secretary must be notified no later than 7 days prior to the scheduled kick-off time and must be accompanied by evidence as to the consent of both Clubs.
- 4.34.4 The Championship Committee and the relevant Competitions Committee reserve the absolute right to reschedule any Match where circumstances require. In the event of a postponed or abandoned Match requiring to be rescheduled, other Matches may require to be rescheduled or further rescheduled in order to accommodate that Match.
- 4.44.5 Matches shall normally be played at the home Club's regular venue. The home Club must advise the relevant Competition Secretary, the visiting Club and the referee promptly if a Match is to be played at a different venue.
- 4.54.6 Scottish Rugby retains full ownership of all copyright, database, and associated rights relating to fixtures, fixture lists, and result lists. Scottish Rugby holds exclusive entitlement to grant or license others the right of access to home club grounds ("Access Rights") for the purpose of transmitting, filming, or otherwise recording, by any form of media, any audio and/or visual content that depicts or describes any part of a match ("Copyright Materials").
- 4.64.7 All Clubs shall adhere to the terms of any and all agreements entered into by Scottish Rugby from time to time concerning Access Rights, including but not limited to Television Rights, Radio Rights, Footage Rights, and Marketing Rights (collectively referred to as the "Commercial Contracts") as they relate to Scottish Rugby competitions.
- 4.74.8 Should a broadcaster or media partner with whom Scottish Rugby holds a Commercial Contract exercise their right to broadcast a match, the Clubs involved must reschedule the fixture to the specified date and/or time as directed by Scottish Rugby. In such cases, no financial compensation shall be payable to the Clubs.
- 4.84.9 Where necessary to meet the requirements of a Commercial Contract, a match may be relocated to an alternative venue deemed suitable by Scottish Rugby. Clubs agree to cooperate fully in facilitating any such venue changes.
- 4.94.10 Clubs acknowledge that Scottish Rugby may issue additional rules and regulations in relation to the implementation of Commercial Contracts. These may include, but are not limited to, requirements around broadcasting, perimeter advertising, and matchday programme content. Clubs agree to comply with all such guidelines as issued and updated by Scottish Rugby.

Postponed and Cancelled Matches

- 4.104.11 If, as a consequence of government advice (national or local) a Match cannot be played the Club must without delay inform the relevant Competition Secretary of the full circumstances and the Match shall be postponed.
- 4.114.12 Matches postponed under Rule ~~4.114.10~~ shall ordinarily be rearranged/rescheduled for a date prior to the conclusion of the season. Should any such Match not be played by that date, and subject to Rule 12.2 the Competition Points awarded to each Club in the relevant league table shall be adjusted according to the

‘Best Playing Record Calculation’ to determine the final league positions.

4.124.13 In the event of any re-arranged knock-out or play-off Match having to be cancelled in accordance with Rule ~~4.114-10~~, the Championship Committee may determine that the Club with the higher standing in the final league table shall be declared as the winner of that Match.

4.134.14 If a Match is likely to be postponed for any other reason, the home Club must seek to play at an alternative venue or, if the home team is in the first half of its league season, the home Club may seek the opposition Club’s consent for the fixture to be reversed. In the event of a postponement the home Club shall promptly notify the opposition Club, the Match referee and the Competition Secretary. Where a Club makes no reasonable attempt to find an alternative venue the relevant Competitions Committee reserves the absolute right to apply sanctions to the offending Club, including a formal reprimand and warning and/or deduction of Competition Points.

4.144.15 If a second or subsequent postponement is likely, the Competitions Committee may direct where and when the Match should be played.

4.16 Where a Match is postponed for any reason it shall ordinarily be rescheduled to the next available fixture date free of Competition fixtures (no sooner than 7 days from the postponed fixture date). Other Matches may require to be rescheduled or further rescheduled in order to accommodate that Match.

4.154.17 A Club may submit a request to reschedule a fixture for consideration by the Competitions Committee where exceptional and unforeseen circumstances, wholly outwith the Club’s control, result in the Club being unable to field a suitably trained Front Row due to injury and/or concussion protocols. Any such request must be submitted to the Competition Secretary no later than the Tuesday immediately preceding the scheduled fixture. Upon review of the request, the Competitions Committee shall have the discretion to approve and reschedule the fixture where it deems the circumstances to be valid.

Abandoned Matches

4.164.18 Where a Match is abandoned before 20 minutes of the second half have elapsed it shall ordinarily be rescheduled to the next available fixture date free of Competition fixtures (no sooner than 7 days from the postponed fixture date). Other Matches may require to be rescheduled or further rescheduled in order to accommodate that Match.

4.174.19 If a Match is abandoned after at least 20 minutes of the second half have elapsed the Match shall be deemed to have been completed and the score at the time of the abandonment shall stand as the Match result.

4.184.20 The right is reserved for the relevant Competitions Committee to investigate the causes of any abandonment and to take such action as it deems appropriate.

4.194.21 For the avoidance of doubt the procedures regarding any red or yellow cards, citing or misconduct complaints during an abandoned Match shall be the same as if the Match had been completed.

Non-Fulfilment of Fixtures

4.204.22 No Club may, without reasonable grounds, fail to fulfil its fixture obligations. The relevant Competitions Committee shall be the sole judge as to whether all reasonable avenues have been exhausted in trying to fulfil a Club’s fixture obligations.

4.214.23 If a Club fails to fulfil a fixture on the date notified it shall receive the following automatic penalty:

4.21.14.23.1 First default (in season): a three Competition Point deduction;

4.21.24.23.2 Second default: a four Competition Point deduction; and

4.21.34.23.3 Third default and subsequent defaults: a five Competition Point deduction.

4.24 If a Club fails to fulfil a fixture on the date notified and provides less than 48 hours’ notice to their opponents, the relevant Regional Competitions Committee may consider further sanctions.

4.224.25 A Club subject to penalty under Rule ~~4.234-21~~ and/or Rule 4.24 or Scottish Rugby may request that the penalty be reviewed by the Competitions Committee, but only on the grounds that the default was caused by exceptional and unforeseen circumstances wholly outwith its control. Requests must be lodged with the Competition Secretary within 7 days of the scheduled kick-off time. On review the Competitions Committee shall have right to cancel, reduce, affirm or increase the penalty.

4.234.26 Where a Club is subject to penalty under Rule ~~4.234-21.3~~ the Competitions Committee shall also have the additional power to relegate and/or disqualify the Club where it considers this to be either necessary or appropriate

4.244.27 Where in the view of the Competitions Committee any default was due to the wilful actions of any Club it may additionally:

4.24.14.27.1 apply sanctions to either or both Clubs, including a formal reprimand and warning as to future conduct and/or deduction of up to an additional five Competition Points and/or disqualification from the relevant competition and/or a deduction of up to the full amount of any participation money which the Club may be entitled to; and/or

4.24.24.27.2 award the Competition Points to either Club, divide them between the Clubs as it sees fit or decide that no Competition Points should be awarded and order that the Match be replayed.

4.254.28 In the event of a Club not fulfilling a fixture and the opposition Club incurring unnecessary expense, the relevant Competitions Committee may award a financial penalty towards the reimbursement of the non-offending Club's and the Match Official's actual costs. Proof of actual costs will be required.

4.264.29 If a Club fails to fulfil three or more Competition fixtures in consecutive seasons the Championship Committee may suspend the Club from participation in Competitions for such period as the Championship Committee deems appropriate.

5 THE PLAYERS

Registration and De-Registration

- 5.1 All Players participating in the Competitions must be registered on the Scottish Rugby registration system (SCRUMS).
- 5.2 A Player is registered when, subject to these Rules, the Player has been allocated a unique reference number and the Player appears on the system under the Club's list of active registered Players. For the avoidance of doubt, registration of itself does not confer eligibility to play and players must comply with these rules and all other eligibility requirements including, inter alia, International Clearance.
- 5.3 All Players participating in the Competitions (other than as Emergency Player Loan Scheme Players or as allowed within the Regulations of an individual competition) must be properly registered as an active Player with the Club that they are representing.
- 5.4 Scottish Rugby reserves the right to refuse, suspend or request further information in respect of any application.
- 5.5 A Player may be registered to only one Primary League Club and one Secondary League Club. A Player's Primary League Club shall ordinarily be the Club with which the Player trains and plays most frequently. The Player may ask their Primary League Club to also register them with a Secondary League Club. The Player shall not be eligible to play for their Primary or Secondary Club until their name appears on that body's list of active registered Players.
- 5.6 A Player wishing to transfer Club must notify their current Club of their desire to transfer. The Player's new Club shall apply in the prescribed manner to transfer the Player's registration. The Player shall not be eligible to play for their new Club until their name appears on that body's list of active registered Players.
- 5.7 A Player cannot be first registered with a Secondary League Club if that Club has five or fewer Matches to play.
- 5.8 Clubs shall ensure that their list of registered Players is at all times accurate and up to date, including in relation to whether each Player remains active. Clubs shall deactivate a Player's registration on receipt of a request from the Player. Clubs wishing to deactivate a Player's registration shall inform the Player in writing.
- 5.9 Where a Player receives International Clearance to play outwith Scotland the Player's registration must be deactivated by their Club promptly.
- 5.10 Where a Player requires a work permit, visa or other consent to play in Scotland, the Player's Club must deactivate their registration at the end of that consent.
- 5.11 A Player's registration may be suspended or cancelled (including with retrospective effect), where the Player or their Club has breached the Regulations Relating to the Game or any of Scottish Rugby's Policies, Rules, Regulations or registration procedures.
- 5.12 Subject to the foregoing, a Player's registration status on any particular date shall be determined by the listing of active registered Players on that date.

Eligibility

- 5.13 Incoming Players requiring International Clearance shall not be eligible to participate in Scottish Rugby competitions until Scottish Rugby has provided written confirmation of the completion of the International Clearance process.
- 5.14 Other than as set out within the Rules/Regulations or with the written permission of the relevant Competition Committee, a Player may not play in Matches for more than two Clubs in any season.
- 5.15 A Player may not participate in a Match in an adult competition until the Player has attained the age of 18 years unless the Player has received prior written dispensation to do so from Scottish Rugby.
- 5.16 It shall be considered a breach:
- 5.16.1 to register or attempt to register a Player without the Player's consent;
 - 5.16.2 to play a Player in a Match who is not eligible to participate;
 - 5.16.3 for a Player or Club to fail to comply with Player payment provisions of SDR 4.1 Player Status and Player Contracts. For the avoidance of doubt, the payment and/or the provision of material benefits to any Player in return for their participation is prohibited unless specifically permitted by SDR 4.1;
 - 5.16.4 for a Player to participate in a Match for a Club to which the Player is not registered or for which the Player is not otherwise eligible to participate for; or
 - 5.16.5 to mislead the Championship Committee, Competitions Committee or Scottish Rugby in any matter relating to Player registration or eligibility.
- 5.17 Where a Club has been found to have fielded an ineligible Player, or to have fielded a Player whose name did not appear on the Team Sheet, the relevant Competitions Committee shall have the right to impose a sanction on the Club for which the Player participated, including a formal reprimand and warning as to future conduct and/or deduction of up to an additional five Competition Points and/or disqualification from the relevant competition. The Player shall also be liable to such additional penalty or suspension as the relevant Competitions Committee considers appropriate.

Dual Registration

- 5.18 A Player's Primary and Secondary League Clubs must be in different league divisions. Should a Player's Primary or Secondary League Club be promoted / relegated into the same division as their other dual registered Club, the Player must be deregistered from their Secondary League Club.
- 5.19 A dual-registered Player may not play for the first XV of their lower-placed Club in any of its last ~~five-four~~ Matches unless less than 50% of the Player's appearances that season have been in the starting XV of the higher placed first team at least 50% of their previous first XV Matches that season have been for the lower-placed side or where the Player has obtained the prior written permission of the relevant Competitions Committee.
- 5.20 No more than five dual registered Players may be included in the Match squad of their lower placed Club.

Transfer Deadline

- 5.21 Scottish Rugby shall set Male and Female transfer deadline dates each season (see Appendix 1).
- 5.22 Any Player receiving International Clearance to play in Scotland, being Dual Registered or being transferred between Clubs after the relevant transfer deadline may not participate for their new Club in a Competition for the remainder of that season unless either:
- 5.22.1 the relevant competition Regulations permit; or
 - 5.22.2 the Player attains the age of 18 years after the Transfer Deadline; or
- 5.23 the Player receives written permission from the Championship Committee to do so. Permission will normally only be granted in exceptional circumstances (for example a non-rugby related change of domicile or other reasonable change of circumstances which makes it impossible or impractical, in the view of the Championship Committee, for the player to continue to play for their current club.

Pro Team Contract Players

- 5.24 Players contracted to Edinburgh Rugby or the Glasgow Warriors shall be eligible to participate in the Premiership only but not in any other National or Regional Competition Matches. Players contracted to Edinburgh Rugby or the Glasgow Warriors shall not be eligible to participate in the Play Off Match between the ninth place Premiership team and the second place National League Division 1 team.
- 5.25 No more than two Pro Team Contracted Players may be included in any match day squad.

Pro Team Academy Players

- 5.26 Scottish Rugby Pro Team Academy Players shall be eligible to participate in the Premiership but not in any other National League or Regional Competition Matches. Scottish Rugby Pro Team Academy Players shall not be eligible to participate in the Play Off Match between the ninth place Premiership team and the second place National League Division 1 team.

Emergency Loan Scheme

- 5.27 A Club which would otherwise be unable to fulfil a Match or to meet the requirements of Law 3.8 due to a short-term lack of suitably experienced front-row forwards, may take on loan up to two front-row Players from other Clubs. Emergency Loan Players shall not become registered to their loan Club for these purposes.
- 5.28 No Player may play on loan in a Match for:
- 5.28.1 a Club in the same division as the Player's Primary Club;
 - 5.28.2 a Club in a lower division in its final five-four Matches, Play Offs or from the quarter-finals (or later) of the relevant Competition; or
 - 5.28.3 a Club where their participation on loan risks compromising their Primary Club's ability to meet its own competition obligations.
- 5.29 Without the prior approval of the relevant Competitions Committee:
- 5.29.1 no Player may play on loan with the same Club in more than three Matches per season or for more than two Clubs in any season; and
 - 5.29.2 no Player who has participated for his Primary League Club in more than eight Premiership or National League Matches (excluding in the Reserve League) may play on loan with a Club in a lower division.

6 THE TEAMS

Team Colours

- 6.1 Clubs must ensure that they avoid a clash of team colours (jersey and/or socks). The Match referee shall be the sole judge as to whether colours clash. Where necessary it shall be the responsibility of the home Club to change.
- 6.2 Clubs proposing to play other than in their normal colours (as detailed in SCRUMS) must advise the opposition and the Match referee not less than 72 hours before kick-off.

Team Sheets

- 6.3 Clubs must deliver a fully completed team sheet to the Match referee and to the opposition manager/coach not later than 30 minutes before kick-off. Changes to the team sheet may be made up to kick-off. No player shall be eligible to take part in a match unless their name appears on the team sheet submitted.
- 6.4 The team sheet must specify the jersey number or some other form of unique identification, full name and registration number of each Player. Players capable of playing at tight-head prop, loose-head prop and hooker must be highlighted as such. The team sheet must separately identify any Player playing for their Secondary League Club and any Emergency Player Loan Scheme Players.
- 6.5 Any Club wishing to use an identification method other than jersey numbers must request approval from the Championship Committee or respective Competition Committee no later than 10 days before a fixture.
- 6.6 Team sheets must be submitted to Scottish Rugby within 48 hours of kick-off.
- 6.7 For the avoidance of doubt it shall be considered a breach when:
- 6.7.1 A club fails to timeously deliver a team sheet to the other Club and Match referee; or
 - 6.7.2 If a Club fails to submit a team sheet fully, accurately or timeously it shall receive the following automatic penalty:
 - 6.7.2.1 First default (in season): £25 of the Clubs 'CIF' payment;
 - 6.7.2.2 Second default: £50 of the Clubs 'CIF' payment; and
 - 6.7.2.3 Third default and subsequent defaults: £50 per instance of an inaccurate, late or missing Teamsheet. In the event of five or more failures the relevant Competition Secretary shall consider raising a Complaint (in accordance with Rule 13) against the Club.

- 6.8 A Club subject to penalty under Rule 6.7 or Scottish Rugby may request that the penalty be reviewed by the Competitions Committee, but only on the grounds that the default was caused by exceptional and unforeseen circumstances wholly outwith its control. Requests must be lodged with the Competition Secretary within 2 weeks of the scheduled kick-off time. On review the Competitions Committee shall have right to cancel, reduce, affirm or increase the penalty.

Number of Starting Players

- 6.9 Both teams must start the Match with 15 Players, including a suitably experienced front-row. Any Match not complying with this requirement shall be declared unfulfilled and shall be treated as a Non-Fulfilled Fixture.

Replacements / Substitutes

- 6.10 The number of replacements/substitutes shall be as follows:

Premiership: Four, five, six or seven

National League Division 1: Four or five.

Premiership/National League Division 1 Play Off: Four, five, six or seven

National League Divisions 2, 3 and 4: Two, three or four.

- 6.11 There is no requirement for there to be parity as to the number of replacements available to each team and the requirements of Law 3.8 in respect of the number of front row players within any Match squad must be observed.
- 6.12 The maximum number of rolling substitutions a team may use in any Match shall be 12. The 15-minute limit on temporary Blood Replacements in Law 3 does not apply to rolling substitutions.
- 6.13 No Player may be included in squads for Matches which are being played either concurrently or are overlapping.

Late Arrival

- 6.14 Where some or all of its Players have been unavoidably delayed, a Club may request the Match referee to delay the kick-off to enable it to achieve a full side. No Match may be delayed such that the Match would not be completed in good time. The Match referee shall be the sole judge in this regard.

7 THE GROUND

The Pitch

- 7.1 The home Club shall provide a suitable pitch complying with Law 1. The dimensions of the pitch shall be as near as is practicable to the maximum permitted by Law 1 and must exceed any requirement set by Scottish Rugby.
- 7.2 Padding around the goalposts, conforming to Law 1.7, must be provided.
- 7.3 If the home Club fails to meet the requirements of Rule 7.1 or 7.2 the Match referee may order that the Match be postponed.

Technical Zones

- 7.4 Two technical zones (one for each team) must be provided. The technical zones shall be on the same side of the pitch and shall be marked on the ground. Where practicable they shall be located in the Perimeter Area of the Playing Enclosure and shall commence not less than 5m either side of the half-way line. The technical zones must be set back at least 2m from the touch line.
- 7.5 A maximum of six club personnel (coaches, medics, water carriers or other officials) may be present in each technical zone. All persons present in the technical zone (a) must conduct themselves at all times in an orderly fashion in accordance with the highest standards of disciplined and sporting behaviour; and (b) must not obstruct, interfere with or direct any comments towards the Match officials.
- 7.6 Replacements must stay outwith the Playing Enclosure, unless warming up or about to enter the Field of Play as a replacement.

Sin Bins

- 7.7 Two "sin bin" areas (one for each team) must be provided. The sin bin areas shall be at least 10m apart and shall be afforded a clear view of the Playing Enclosure.

Fitness of Ground or Conditions for Play

- 7.8 If, prior to the day of the Match, there is doubt as to the potential fitness of the ground the following arrangements must be made:
- 7.8.1 Advance warning, being at least 72 hours where reasonably practicable, must be provided to the visiting Club and the Match referee. The visiting Club and referee must be advised as to any potential contingency arrangements.
 - 7.8.2 The visiting Club shall provide details of a point of contact in relation to the potential postponement and shall also advise as to their intended time of departure.
 - 7.8.3 The home Club shall arrange for an independent assessment of the pitch. The assessment should, where reasonably practicable, be made by the Match referee, failing which by another independent person (such as a local referee, referee coach/assessor, Scottish Rugby official or an official from another club).
 - 7.8.4 The assessment shall be undertaken not less than 60 minutes prior to the visiting Club's intended departure time. The result of the inspection shall be communicated to the visiting Club not less than 30 minutes before its intended departure time and to the Match referee.
 - 7.8.5 Should the home Club fail to arrange for an independent assessment the visiting Club may do so. Where said assessment indicates the ground to be playable and the home Club has postponed the fixture, the relevant Competitions Committee may investigate as to whether a breach of these rules has been committed.
- 7.9 Where prior to kick-off there is doubt as to the fitness of the ground or the conditions for play, the Match referee and the team captains shall inspect the pitch. If any one of these three persons deems the pitch or conditions to be unplayable then the Match shall be postponed. This decision shall lie solely with the team captains and the Match referee. The captains shall notify their own Club of the decision.
- 7.10 Within 48 hours of the decision not to play a Match the home Club shall advise the relevant Competition Secretary as to the reason why that Match was not fulfilled. The Competition Secretary may seek further information in order to decide whether a Complaint should be raised against either or both Clubs.
- 7.11 Where a Club does not own or have rights over its ground, and the ground is declared unplayable by the holder of said rights, written evidence of such decision must be obtained and must be submitted to the Competition Secretary. In the event of failure to provide written evidence to the Competition Secretary, the Competition Committee may decide whether a Complaint should be raised against the home Club.

8 THE MATCH

Match Organisation

- 8.1 Unless otherwise directed by the relevant Competitions Committee, the home Club shall be responsible for the logistics involved in the staging of the Match.
- 8.2 The home Club shall ensure that the designated venue is fit for the purpose of staging the Match including, but not limited to, ensuring that:
- 8.2.1 the designated venue complies with all applicable government and local restrictions, health and safety legislation, local authority consent and associated requirements, and is safe for the purpose of admitting persons to the venue to assist in the organisation of, or to play in and/or spectate at the Match;
 - 8.2.2 at all times it maintains appropriate insurance to cover its potential liabilities arising from the staging of the Match, including the admission of spectators and others to the venue.
- 8.3 The home Club shall ensure that the visiting Club are advised of all relevant venue health and safety and associated requirements.
- 8.4 The home Club shall ensure that spectators are kept at a reasonable distance from the Playing Enclosure and at no time are able to enter the Playing Enclosure to interfere or interact with the Match, the Match officials or any of the Players or other Persons entitled to be within the Playing Enclosure.

Gate receipts

- 8.5 For all knock-out Matches the gate receipts (net any VAT payable by the home Club) shall be shared by the two clubs on an equal basis, and the visiting Club's share of the receipts shall be provided to it at the end of

the Match after the deduction of the home Club's legitimate match expenses (being the printing of match programmes/tickets, reasonable pre-match advertising, attendance by Police and other emergency services, post-match catering for the two teams and Match Officials, and any other matter as agreed in advance by the two Clubs).

- 8.6 For all knock-out Matches, any privilege of free admission (including by any season ticket or Club membership) shall not apply and all spectators shall be charged the same level of entrance fee (where an entrance is charged) for equivalent accommodation.

Match Ball

- 8.7 The home Club shall provide at least three match balls compliant with the Laws.

Half-Time Interval

- 8.8 The half-time interval shall normally be five minutes. The length of the interval may be altered by agreement between the Clubs provided that this is notified to the Match referee prior to kick-off but shall not be more than 15 minutes.

- 8.9 The teams may retire to covered accommodation at half-time.

Competition Points

- 8.10 In all Competitions, four points shall be awarded for a win and two points shall be awarded for a draw ("Match Points"). In addition, one bonus point shall be awarded to a Club scoring four or more tries and one bonus point shall be awarded to a losing Club which finishes within seven points or fewer of the winning Club ("Bonus Points").

Notification of Results

- 8.11 The home Club shall be responsible for notifying the Match result to the Competition Secretary in accordance with the procedures set out by Scottish Rugby.

9 REFEREES, ASSISTANT REFEREES AND TOUCH JUDGES

- 9.1 Scottish Rugby shall appoint a referee and assistant referees for each Match in the Premiership.
- 9.2 Scottish Rugby shall appoint a referee for all Matches in the National Leagues.
- 9.3 Subject to the agreement in place (Appendix 2) Scottish Rugby may appoint assistant referees for each Match in National League Division 1. Where assistant referees are not appointed to a Match in National League Division 1 each team must provide a touch judge.
- 9.4 Each team in National League Division 2, 3 and 4 must provide a touch judge.
- 9.5 Responsibility for confirmation of the referee and, where appropriate, the assistant referees shall lie with the home Club.

10 METHOD FOR DECIDING ON LEAGUE PLACINGS AND IN TIED KNOCK-OUT MATCHES

Tied League Placings

- 10.1 In the event of two or more Clubs in a division, pool, conference or competition being equal on Competition Points, placings shall be determined based on their respective points differences (being points scored for less points against).
- 10.2 Should points difference fail to separate the Clubs then the aggregate score over the competition fixtures between the Clubs shall be used to decide between them.
- 10.3 If neither of the above can determine which Club should be placed the higher and an issue of qualification to the next stage of competition, promotion, relegation, or a competition title depends on the respective rankings;
- 10.3.1 a play-off Match shall ordinarily be arranged by the Competition Secretary at a neutral venue.
- 10.3.2 where a play-off match cannot be arranged because government (national or local) advice means a Match cannot be played, the Championship Committee may determine that the criteria in 10.4.1-10.4.5 be applied, firstly to the Competition Matches between the teams and, if this fails to separate the Clubs, to all of the Clubs' Matches in the Competition over the season. Should this fail to separate the Clubs the Championship Committee may determine that the Clubs be separated by

the toss of a coin.

Play-Off and Knock-Out Matches: Extra Time

- 10.4 If the scores at full-time in a play-off or knock-out Match are equal, extra time shall be played comprising 10 minutes each way with a one-minute interval. A coin shall be tossed by the Match referee to determine the direction of play. If the scores are still equal after extra time the following criteria (in the order given and including occurrences in extra time) shall be used to decide the winner:
- 10.4.1 the team scoring more tries;
 - 10.4.2 the team scoring more conversions;
 - 10.4.3 the team scoring more drop goals;
 - 10.4.4 the team receiving fewer red cards; and
 - 10.4.5 the team receiving fewer yellow cards.
- 10.5 If the event that none of the above is able to separate the teams further periods of extra time shall be played during which the Club which scores first shall be the winner.

11 CLUBS DISQUALIFIED, SUSPENDED OR WITHDRAWING

- 11.1 If a Club is disqualified, suspended or voluntarily withdraws from a league after the start of the season, the results of all Matches played by that team shall be deleted and the positions in the division shall be established from the Matches played between the remaining Clubs.
- 11.2 If the deletion of a Club's results and the subsequent revised positions in the division have a direct effect on a Teams' qualification into the next stage of competition or the promotion or relegation of a team which has already completed its full programme of fixtures, the relevant Competitions Committee may make such arrangements as it deems appropriate to best resolve the issue.

12 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION IN LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

- 12.1 Subject to the application of Scottish Rugby's Policies, Procedures, Rules and Regulations (if relevant, and to the extent applicable), the basis on which Clubs are to be promoted/relegated shall be as set out in Regulations associated with the individual National Competition. Normally, any vacancy arising shall be filled by an additional Club being promoted before one fewer is relegated. In the event of an additional Club requiring to be promoted from a regional based competition, the additional Club shall normally be promoted from the withdrawing Club's Region.
- 12.2 Within each of the competition structures (Premiership, National and Regional Leagues (as a single entity); the Reserve Leagues; and the Women's Premiership and National Leagues), in the event that, for whatever reason, an aggregate of 65% of all possible league Matches in the relevant competition structure have not been played by the conclusion of a season (Close Time), or where the Championship Committee deems that there is no reasonable prospect of 65% of the league Matches in the relevant competition structure being played by that date, the Championship Committee may declare the season for that competition structure to be null and void and there shall be no promotion/relegation in respect of that season.
- 12.3 The final placings in each division, the determination of league titles, the Clubs to be promoted/relegated between divisions and the composition of those divisions for the succeeding season shall be subject to the lists issued by the Competition Secretary at the conclusion of the Season.
- 12.4 A Club may apply to the Championship Committee or their respective Competition Committee to request an exemption from promotion. In respect of such applications:
- 12.4.1 a Club may only apply once in a two-year period in respect of any league or division;
 - 12.4.2 the application must be submitted no later than 1 April in that Season; and
 - 12.4.3 prior to granting the exemption the applicant shall satisfy the Championship Committee that the promotion would be materially detrimental to player welfare and/or the finances or infrastructure of the Club.
- 12.5 Where a request for exemption from promotion is approved and the Club concerned was subject to a play-off, the other play-off team shall be promoted.
- 12.6 A Club may apply to the Championship Committee or their respective Competition Committee to request to be relegated to a lower league. In respect of such applications:

- 12.6.1 the application must be submitted no later than 1 April in that Season; and
 - 12.6.2 prior to granting the exemption the applicant shall satisfy the Championship Committee that sustained fulfilment in the higher league would be materially detrimental to player welfare and/or the finances or infrastructure of the Club.
- 12.7 The determination of the relevant Competition Committee or Championship Committee in respect of relegation and promotion matters shall be final and binding on all participating Clubs.

13 COMPLAINTS

- 13.1 A complaint into an alleged breach of the Rules or Regulations (a "Complaint") may be raised by:
- 13.1.1 the Championship Secretary (in relation to any Competition);
 - 13.1.2 a Competition Secretary (but only in relation to matters affecting that competition); or
 - 13.1.3 a Club (but only in relation to a matter which affects it directly and which causes it to suffer significant disadvantage in a Competition, or some other form of material prejudice).
- 13.2 All Complaints must:
- 13.2.1 state (a) the nature of the Complaint, including the Rule/Regulation alleged to have been breached, and (b) the nature and the extent of the disadvantage/prejudice allegedly suffered; and
 - 13.2.2 be signed on behalf of the complainant (in the case of a Club this shall be by either the Club President, Secretary or in the absence of such another nominated Club Official).
- 13.3 Complaints submitted on behalf of participating Clubs must be submitted to the relevant Competitions Committee or, as the case may be, the Championship Committee within 14 days of the alleged infringement occurring (for the avoidance of doubt the 14-day period shall run from the actual event, not from the date of the complainant becoming aware of it).
- 13.4 The subject of the Complaint shall be sent a copy of it as soon as practical following receipt.

Complaint Process

- 13.5 Complaints shall be heard by the relevant Competitions Committee, or a sub-committee of it comprising not less than three members (the "Complaints Committee"). Where the Complaint is heard by a sub-committee, the Complaints Committee shall elect one of its members as Chair. Any member with an actual or potential conflict of interest shall be required to recuse themselves.
- 13.6 The Complaints Committee may:
- 13.6.1 Regulate its own procedure and determine any matter arising in relation to the Complaint. Meetings of the Complaints Committee may take place either in whole or in part in one place, by letter, telephone, e-mail, video-conference, on-line forum, webcast or by any combination of convenient means. Complaints shall normally be heard based on the papers but may be by way of hearing where the Complaints Committee or one of the parties so requests;
 - 13.6.2 Determine the timescale for the proceedings. For the avoidance of doubt the Complaints Committee shall be entitled to expedite the process where it considers that this is required for the benefit of the competition. The Complaints Committee may also set aside the requirement for Complaints to be brought within 14 days where it believes that it is in the best interests of the game to do so;
 - 13.6.3 Call upon, receive and consider such evidence as it thinks appropriate; and
 - 13.6.4 Request the attendance at any hearing into a Complaint of any Club, team or person under the jurisdiction of Scottish Rugby. Where a Club, team or person requested to attend refuses or fails to do so the Complaints Committee may adjourn the hearing or proceed in their absence. Any Club, team or person failing to co-operate with the Complaints Committee or seeking to mislead at any point in the Complaint process may be subject to Misconduct proceedings under Scottish Rugby's Disciplinary Rules.
- 13.7 The subject of the Complaint shall have the right:
- 13.7.1 to be represented at any hearing by up to two people, in the case of a Club one of whom must be a Club member. The name and capacity of those attending shall be advised to the Complaints Committee in advance of the hearing;
 - 13.7.2 to submit evidence, call witnesses and make representations at any hearing; and

- 13.7.3 to be notified in writing of the outcome of the hearing as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- 13.8 The onus of proof shall be on the complainant to establish the breach of the Rule or Regulation alleged. The standard of proof shall be on the balance of probabilities.
- 13.9 A written statement giving reasons for the decision of the Complaints Committee shall be provided if so requested by the parties and upon the lodging of a note of appeal.

Sanctions

- 13.10 Where a Complaint has been upheld, the Complaints Committee shall be entitled in its absolute discretion to impose any or all of the following sanctions or penalties (including on a suspended basis):
- 13.10.1 a formal reprimand and warning as to future conduct;
 - 13.10.2 a deduction of up to the full amount of any participation money which the Club may be entitled to
 - 13.10.3 an award of costs ;
 - 13.10.4 require any Match complained of to be replayed on such terms as are deemed appropriate;
 - 13.10.5 the deduction of up to five Competition Points in respect of each breach identified;
 - 13.10.6 forfeiture of and/or the granting to another Club of the Competition Points for a Match (including Bonus Points) or the awarding of the result in the Match complained of;
 - 13.10.7 the suspension or expulsion of a Club, team, Player or person from participation in any Competition for such period as may be deemed appropriate;
 - 13.10.8 such other penalty or sanction as may be deemed appropriate (including educational based sanctions where applicable).

Acts of Misconduct

- 13.11 For the avoidance of doubt a Competitions or Complaints Committee shall be entitled to refer any act of potential Misconduct (as defined in the Disciplinary Rules) to the Discipline Manager for further consideration.

14 APPEAL PROCEDURE

The Appeals Committee

- 14.1 The Board shall establish an independent Competition Appeals Panel (the "Appeals Panel") to hear and determine appeals against decisions of the Championship Committee and Competitions Committees, including decisions delegated to the Championship Convenor, Championship Secretary and/or other bodies or individuals appointed to assist with the organisation of specific competitions.
- 14.2 The Board shall appoint the members of the Appeals Panel and, from those members, a Chair of the Appeals Panel. The members of the Appeals Panel shall comprise legally qualified persons together with current and former administrators/players and such others as are considered by the Board to have skills and experience relevant to the work of the Appeals Panel.
- 14.3 The Chair of the Appeals Panel shall from time to time select not less than three members of the Appeals Panel to sit as an Appeals Committee and shall select one of those members (who shall ordinarily be a legally qualified solicitor or advocate of at least five years' standing) to act as Chair of the Appeals Committee. The Scottish Rugby Regulatory Department shall provide administrative support to the Appeals Committee.
- 14.4 All decisions of the Appeals Committee shall be made by majority. No member of the Appeals Committee may abstain. The Chair of the Appeals Committee shall have both a deliberative and, where the Appeals Committee consists of an even number of members, a casting vote.

Grounds for Appeal

- 14.5 The grounds for appeal shall be limited to the following:
- 14.5.1 the original decision was unduly harsh or oppressive;
 - 14.5.2 the body or person making the decision misdirected itself in relation to the Laws of the Game and/or the relevant competition Rules and Regulations;
 - 14.5.3 the body or person making the decision, in the exercise of its discretion, took account of factors it should not have or failed to take account of factors it should have;
 - 14.5.4 there has been a breach of natural justice; or
 - 14.5.5 no other reasonable body or person appointed to that role would have reached that decision.

14.6 For the avoidance of doubt:

14.6.1 no Club, team or person may appeal in respect of any sanction imposed on, or other decision made concerning, another Club, team or person; and

14.6.2 no Appeal may be brought against an operational decision made in the running of a Competition, notwithstanding that the effect of such decision could impact financially or otherwise on the Club, body or individual.

Timing and Form of Appeal

14.7 Notes of appeal must be in writing, be signed by the appellant and must be lodged with the Appeals Committee Secretary within seven days of the decision appealed against being made. The note of appeal must contain the following:

14.7.1 the name of the party making the appeal and the office held /capacity of the person signing it;

14.7.2 the decision appealed against, including details of the party which made the original decision, the date of the decision and any sanction imposed;

14.7.3 the full grounds of appeal; and

14.7.4 any documentation upon which the appellant intends to rely in relation to the appeal.

14.8 Other than on cause shown and with the approval of the Appeals Committee, it shall not be permissible to introduce evidence which was available, or could reasonably have been available, at the time the decision appealed against was made but which was not brought to the attention of the original Complaints Committee.

Appeal Process

14.9 The Appeals Committee shall, subject to the requirements of natural justice, have the power to:

14.9.1 regulate its own procedure and determine any matter arising in relation to the Appeal. Meetings of the Appeals Committee may take place either in whole or in part in one place, by letter, telephone, e-mail, video-conference, webcast or by a combination of convenient means;

14.9.2 determine the timescale for the appeal. The timescale shall be advised to the appellant, who may request a postponement of any hearing on cause shown. For the avoidance of doubt the Appeals Committee shall be entitled to expedite the process where it considers that this is required for the benefit of the competition or in the best interests of the game to do so;

14.9.3 call upon, receive and consider such evidence as it thinks appropriate; and

14.9.4 request the attendance at any hearing of any Club, team or person under the jurisdiction of Scottish Rugby. Where a Club, team or person requested to attend refuses or fails to do so the committee may adjourn the hearing or proceed in their absence Any Club, team or person failing to co-operate with the Appeals Committee or seeking to mislead at any point in the Complaint process, may be subject to Misconduct proceedings under Scottish Rugby's Disciplinary Rules.

14.10 The appellant shall have the right to be represented at any hearing by up to two people, in the case of a Club one of whom must be a Club member. The name and capacity of those attending shall be advised to the Appeals Committee in advance of the meeting.

14.11 Scottish Rugby's Discipline Manager or his nominee may represent the original decision making body or person at any Appeal Hearing.

14.12 Where evidence is given before the Appeals Committee, there shall be no cross-examination of witnesses except through the Chair and to the extent that the Appeals Committee in its discretion permits. The deliberations of the Appeals Committee shall be in private.

14.13 No appeal shall be decided upon grounds not contained within the note of appeal lodged by the appellants. The Appeals Committee may, on cause shown, allow further grounds of appeal to be stated providing that the party who made the original decision or its representative is given an opportunity, within a reasonable time, to answer the same.

Appeal Decision

14.14 Having heard such evidence it deems appropriate and any submission made by or on behalf of the appellant, the Appeals Committee may decide to:

14.14.1 affirm the original decision; or

- 14.14.2 uphold the appeal by setting aside the decision appealed against and quashing any sanction imposed under it; or
 - 14.14.3 uphold the appeal in part by setting aside part only of the decision appealed against and/or modifying any sanction imposed; or
 - 14.14.4 refuse the appeal and increase the sanction imposed on the appellant or substitute an alternative sanction; or
 - 14.14.5 take any step which in the exercise of its discretion the Appeals Committee considers it would be appropriate to take in order to deal justly with the appeal.
- 14.15 The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be advised to the appellant as soon as reasonably practicable after the conclusion of the hearing. Where it considers it appropriate, the Appeals Committee may deliver an oral decision at the conclusion of the hearing. A written statement giving reasons for a decision of the Appeals Committee shall be provided in due course if so requested by the appellant. Scottish Rugby reserves the right to make public the outcome of any appeal and the identity of any Club, team or individuals concerned.
- 14.16 The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be notified to all parties in writing and shall be final and binding on all concerned.

Acts of Misconduct

- 14.17 For the avoidance of doubt the Appeals Committee shall be entitled to refer any act of potential Misconduct under Scottish Rugby's Disciplinary Rules to the Discipline Committee for further consideration.

15 NOTICES

- 15.1 Any notice served pursuant to the Rules and Regulations shall be in writing and shall be delivered by email or first-class post. All notices shall be deemed, until the contrary is proved, to have been received on the date of sending if sent by email or within 48 hours if sent by first-class post.

16 OMISSIONS, INTERPRETATION AND EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- 16.1 A Competitions Committee, the Championship Committee, a Complaints Committee or the Appeals Committee may, on cause shown, relieve a Club, team or person from the consequences of a failure to comply with the Rules and Regulations which is shown to be a mistake, oversight or other excusable cause on such conditions as the Committee so determines.
- 16.2 With the prior approval of the Board, the Championship Committee (or relevant Competition Committee) or Appeals Committee shall have the discretion to:
- 16.2.1 decide on matters not provided for in the Rules and Regulations and to take appropriate action thereon;
 - 16.2.2 interpret the meaning of the Rules and Regulations in accordance with the underlying principles and intent (insofar as it can be ascertained) of the relevant Rule / Regulation and the interests of the game;
 - 16.2.3 determine any inconsistency between the Rules and Regulations and to rectify any administrative error.
- 16.3 The Championship Committee or relevant Competitions Committee's decision(s) in respect of those matters referred to in Rule 14.2 shall be final and binding save for any right to appeal as may be allowed under these Rules.

Appendix 1

Designated Adult Competitions and Key Dates

1 Designated Competitions

The National Competition Rules shall apply in respect of the following competitions and such other competitions as may be designated by the Board from time to time:

Adult Men

1. Premiership and National Leagues (Divisions 1, 2, 3 and 4)
2. Caledonia, East and West Regional Leagues
3. Inter City Reserve League
4. Regional Reserve Leagues
5. (where scheduled) Scottish Rugby Union Cup competitions

Adult Women

1. Premiership
2. Women's Regional Play Off Series
3. Caledonia North, Caledonia/East and West Regional Leagues
4. (where scheduled) Scottish Rugby Union Cup competitions

2 Key Dates

Close Time ends:	03 August 2026
Women's Transfer Deadline:	19 October 2026
Men's Transfer Deadline:	14 December 2026
Close Time begins:	17 May 2027

Appendix 2

National League Division 1: Assistant Referees Agreement

1 Season 2026/27

For season 2026/27 Scottish Rugby will appoint two assistant referees to the Men's National League Division 1*. The assistant referees (AR) will wear communication equipment (earpiece and microphone) linked to the referee and will assist the referee in decision making in the key areas of the game, such as line of touch, kicks at goal, offsidess and foul play.

*Scottish Rugby may re-allocate Assistant Referees to a lower league match (as referees) if a match is at risk of not going ahead (due to their being no suitably trained referee). This means that on any given weekend throughout the season, one or all National League Division 1 matches may not be appointed Assistant Referees.

It is important to note:

- An Assistant Referee will not substitute for the Referee if the Referee are injured during a match;
- Assistant Referees may be re-allocated to another lower league match up to the match kick off time (although as much notice will be given as possible);
- In the event of an Assistant Referee being required to Referee a lower league match, both Assistant Referees will be re-allocated. The home and away teams will then be required to appoint two club touch judges to support the referee. Touch judges will only support matters relating to the line of touch and kicks at goal;
- In the event of Assistant Referees being called up to referee a lower league match the National League Division 1 match will not be postponed or rescheduled.

Appendix 3

Quick Guide to specific rules and regulations

This is not a conclusive list of all rules and regulations in place and clubs are expected to have read and observe all rules and regulations as outlined in this document.

Rule & Regulation	Premiership	National League Division 1	National League Divisions 2, 3 and 4
The U19 Scrummage Law Variations may apply	No	No	No
Minimum number of starting players	Both teams must start the Match with 15 Players, including a suitably experienced front-row.	Both teams must start the Match with 15 Players, including a suitably experienced front-row.	Both teams must start the Match with 15 Players, including a suitably experienced front-row.
Uncontested scrums	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Transfer Deadline	14 December 2026	14 December 2026	14 December 2026
A Player must be registered with the club they are representing	All Players participating in the Competition (other than as Emergency Player Loan Scheme Players) must be properly registered as an active Player with the Club that they are representing.	All Players participating in the Competition (other than as Emergency Player Loan Scheme Players) must be properly registered as an active Player with the Club that they are representing.	All Players participating in the Competition (other than as Emergency Player Loan Scheme Players) must be properly registered as an active Player with the Club that they are representing.
No of Dual Registered players permitted	No more than five dual registered Players may be included in the Match squad of their lower placed Club.	No more than five dual registered Players may be included in the Match squad of their lower placed Club.	No more than five dual registered Players may be included in the Match squad of their lower placed Club.

<p>No. of replacements permitted</p>	<p>Premiership Stage 1: Four, five, six or seven.</p> <p>Premiership Stage 2: Five, six or seven.</p> <p><u>Premiership/National</u> <u>League Division 1 Play Off:</u> <u>Four, five, six or seven.</u></p>	<p>Four or five.</p> <p><u>Premiership/National</u> <u>League Division 1 Play Off:</u> <u>Four, five, six or seven.</u></p>	<p>Two, three or four.</p>
<p>Player matching required</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Game On permitted</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>