

THE WRU YOUTH CHALLENGE CUP RULES 2008/2009

1. Description

The Competition shall be called the "Webb Ellis Youth Cup".

2. Form

The Competition shall be played on a knockout principle over the rounds.

3. Eligibility to participate

i. Clubs

To participate in the competition clubs must be:

- a. Affiliated to one of the District Youth Rugby Unions
- b. Nominated by one of the District Youth Rugby Unions, each District Youth Rugby Union shall nominate no more than 3 Clubs each season.

ii. Players

To be eligible to play in the competition a player must:

- a. Be at least 16 years old but under 19 years old on 31st August 2008 and
- b. Be registered by his Club with the WRU as a youth player or
- c. In the case of front row forwards only up to 2 permit players may play for a Club in a Cup tie provided that the Club is short of props or hookers.

Such permits shall be in writing and completed by the two Clubs, the Club that holds the player's primary registration and the Club that requires his services for a match and be lodged with the WRU before the match is played. Players in positions other than the front row may not play on permit in the competition.

- d. A player who transfers from one Club to another shall be eligible to play for his new Club in the competition provided that:
 - The transfer and registration form is received by the WRU at least 48 hours before the match kick off time.
 - The transfer and registration form is received by the WRU no later than midnight on 31st January 2009.
 - The player has not played for his previous Club in the Competition. A player that has played for one Club in the Competition will not be eligible to play for another Club in a later round of the Competition.

4. Entry Conditions

Clubs participating in the competition shall agree to abide by:-

- a. The rules of the Competition contained herein
- b. The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Welsh Rugby Union Ltd and the regulations and resolutions of the Board of the Welsh Rugby Union Ltd
- c. The bye laws, resolutions and regulations relating to the game of the International Rugby Board
- d. The laws of the game (IRB Under 19 Laws will apply to this Competition)

5. Responsibility for organisation

The WRU will be responsible for organising the Competition. Arrangements for matches in the Preliminary Round to the Second Round will be the responsibility of the Home Club. The WRU will be responsible for the match arrangements for the Semi Final and Final matches.

6. Match Officials

The Home Club in matches in the Preliminary Round, First and Second Round will be responsible for ensuring that it obtains a referee for the match.

The WRU will appoint the referees and touch judges for the Semi Final and Final matches

7. Duration of Play

70 minutes each match (35 minutes each half) plus any time permitted for delays (Laws of the Game 5 -4)

At half time an interval of not more than 10 minutes is allowed.

No extra time shall be played in matches in which scores are equal at full time. In such cases the winning Club shall be decided by application of rule 8 (description of winners)

8. Description of winners

Winners of the match in each tie shall be:-

- a. The Club that has scored the greater number of points at the end of a match or;
- b. In the event of an equal number of points being scored by each Club at the end of the match the winning Club be declared in the following priority:
 - i. The Club that has scored the greater number of tries
 - ii. The Club that has scored the greater number of goals
 - iii. If the result is still a tie then the Club playing away from home shall be declared the winner.

In the case of the Semi Finals if the match remains a tie after applying clauses (i) and (ii) above the match will be replayed. In the case of the Final the trophy shall be shared.

9. **Venues**

Matches shall be played in grounds chosen by the first drawn Clubs in the Preliminary, First and Second Rounds of the Competition. These Clubs shall be the home Clubs.

However, if the Home Club in a match cannot arrange for the match to be played on a ground of its choice on the given date for a round in the Competition, the WRU will determine where the match should be played.

The Semi Final and Final matches shall be played at "neutral" venues chosen by the WRU.

10. **Draw**

The dates for the draw for the Rounds of the Competition will be the responsibility of the WRU, each draw should be held publically and the draw shall take place on or before the following dates:-

Preliminary Round	-	31 st July 2008
Round 1	-	10 th September 2008
Round 2	-	25 th September 2008
Quarter Finals	-	2 nd December 2008
Semi Finals	-	18 th February 2009

11. **Dates and Competition format 2008/2009**

In 2008/2009 36 Clubs shall participate in the Competition, 3 Clubs nominated by each of the 12 District Youth Rugby Unions. The format of the Competition and the dates of the Rounds to be played shall be:-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Round</u>	<u>Number of Clubs</u>	<u>Number of Ties</u>
6 th September 2008	Preliminary	8	4 ties
20 th September 2008	Round 1	32	16 ties
29 th November 2008	Round 2	16	8 ties
14 th February 2009	Quarter Finals	8	4 ties
21 st March 2009	Semi Finals	4	2 ties
18 th April 2009 or	Final	2	1 tie

such other date in April/May 2009 as the WRU shall determine.

12. **Postponed or Abandoned Matches**

(i) **Postponed matches**

Matches in the competition shall be played on the designated dates unless postponed because of ground or weather conditions. Postponed matches shall be rearranged and played within 10 days of the designated date.

(ii) **Abandoned matches**

All matches shall be played to full time. The Referee is to be the sole judge of the time played. If a match is abandoned before full time it shall be replayed. Abandoned matches shall be re-arranged and played within 10 days of the designated date.

13. **Uncontested Scrummages**

If a Club elects to play with uncontested scrummages that Club will not forfeit the match. Matches in the Competition may start with a Club electing to play with uncontested scrummages.

14. **Notification of Results**

The Home Club shall advise the WRU of the result of a match played by telephone, fax or email by 10.00 am on the day after next following a match. In the case of a Saturday fixture this will be by 10.00 am on the morning following the fixture.

Both Clubs shall complete the match result and team sheet and post it to the WRU no later than 3 days after a match has been played.

15. **Disqualification**

If a Club plays an ineligible player in a match in the Competition it shall be disqualified from the Competition.

In such cases the Club that has lost a match to the Club that has played an ineligible player shall proceed to the next round of the competition instead of the disqualified Club.

16. **Protests and Disputes**

Protests or disputes arising out of the competition or the Rules relating thereto must be made in writing to the WRU and accompanied by a fee of £100.00 which may or may not be refunded.

Protests or disputes arising out of the competition will be considered by the WRU's Regulatory Committee or a Sub Committee thereof. When cases of an urgent nature occur the Chairman of the Regulatory Committee, in consultation with the WRU Community Rugby Operations Manager, shall have absolute discretion to deal with these cases whether provided herein or not.

Decisions made by the Regulatory Committee Chairman and the WRU Community Rugby Operations Manager in such cases shall be binding.

17 **Finance**

The WRU shall make a contribution towards the cost of the Home Club staging matches in the Preliminary, First and Second rounds of the competition and shall contribute towards the costs of the Away Club travelling to play matches in these rounds of the competition. The level of contribution to be made by the WRU to clubs may vary from season to season and shall be advised to the participating Clubs before the commencement of the Competition each season.

The WRU shall meet the costs incurred in staging the Semi Final and Final matches, including a contribution to the costs incurred by the Clubs that travel to play in these matches.

