

BEDFORDSHIRE SENIOR KNOCK-OUT SHIELD COMPETITION RULES

1. A club must be a member of the East Midlands Rugby Union and the Bedfordshire County Rugby Union.
2. Entries must be received at a date decided by the Committee.
3.
 - a) The draw for the Shield competition will be made at the AGM by the Committee. Only Clubs that participates in RFU League Level 8 & below along with Merit League Clubs will be eligible to participate in the Shield competition.
 - b) The first round of the Shield competition will comprise up to four matches (eight clubs). The first clubs drawn shall be in the first round. The Club with the lower final RFU League/Merit Table position from the previous season would gain the home advantage (only in the first round). Those clubs who are not paired with a club in the first round due to the number of entries being less than eight will receive a bye. If more than eight clubs enter then the first clubs to be drawn will contest a Preliminary Round until sufficient pairings have been arranged to ensure four ties in the first round.
 - c) The semi-final of the Cup competition will be played between the four first round winners.
 - d) The Final of the Cup competition will be played between the two semi-final winners.
 - e) Seeding: There will be no seeding of the draw for any round of the Cup competition or for any round of the Plate competition.
4.
 - a) Matches must be played on, or before, the date specified during the Cup draw.
 - b) No Club shall be required to play competitive matches (National League, National Cup, County or Sub-County Cup fixtures) on successive days. However, this rule can be superseded at the Committees discretion if the play by date would otherwise be breached. Clubs will be encouraged to play midweek if possible, to avoid two matches in a weekend.

- c) Matches shall be played on a date, which complies with Rule Nos 4a & 4b, and is mutually agreed by the competing clubs. The home drawn club should make the initial contact and is responsible for notifying the Secretary of the match date agreed.
- d) Any club which withdraws from the competition after the draw has taken place in two consecutive seasons shall be ineligible to enter the competition for the following season, unless in exceptional circumstances as agreed by the committee. A recommendation will also be made to the East Midlands Rugby Union that such a club be withdrawn from the following season's National Cup competitions.
- e) Clubs can by mutual agreement matches may be played pre-season, midweek or any other or any other time before the play by and the layby dates should tie in with RFU structured season and provide greater windows for games.
5. The Home Club shall be responsible for obtaining a Society Referee who must be shown a copy of these rules.
 6. The Laws of the RFU and the Rules of the East Midlands Senior Knock-Out Cup Competition (with respect to replacements) shall apply. RFU – A club may select/play up to 7 replacements/subs. If selecting a match squad of 22 players then it must contain 6 players capable of playing in the front row rolling subs allowable to a maximum of 12 interchanges).
 7. If, after forty minutes of play each way the scores are level, there shall be an immediate period of replay between the same teams of ten minutes each way with a one-minute interval. If the scores are then still equal, the team that has scored most tries shall be declared the winner. If this does not produce a result, the team that has scored most goals from tries shall be declared the winner. If this still does not produce a result, the Visiting team shall be declared the winner. If the Final is played at a neutral venue then the club with the lower final RFU League /Merit Table position from the previous season would be the home team.
 8. The winning Club shall notify the Secretary, as soon as possible, of the result. He will then inform the Club of their next opponent.
 9. A player may represent ONE Club only in any one season in this competition and must be a member of that club (contracted players will be ineligible to play).
 10. Any dispute should be sent in writing to the Secretary and the matter will be referred to the Committee whose decision will be final.