

## **Women's Premier 15s Regulations**

### 1. Definitions

<b>Anti-Doping Regulations</b>	means all or part of those rules, regulations or policies and/or procedures for implementation thereof or testing thereunder published from time to time by World Rugby or the RFU;
<b>Away Club</b>	means the opposition Club in a Match against the Home Club;
<b>Borrowing</b>	means the informal borrowing or loaning of a player on an ad-hoc basis for which no written agreement is required and applies as between clubs at Women's Championship 2 and below, and in accordance with the borrowing process stipulated by the RFU. 'Borrow' and 'Borrowed Player' shall be construed accordingly;
<b>Broadcasting Agreements</b>	any agreement entered into by the RFU in relation to the Broadcast Rights of Matches;
<b>Broadcast Partner</b>	means the Commercial Partners to whom the RFU has granted Broadcast Rights;
<b>Broadcast Rights</b>	means the right to attend at and to film, record and/or transmit audio and audio-visual signals of Matches and other content relating to the Competition, which for the avoidance of doubt will include online streaming;
<b>Club</b>	means a Club participating in the Competition;
<b>Competition</b>	means the top tier competition of domestic women's rugby in England to which these Regulations apply;
<b>Competition – Knock Out Stage</b>	the final stage of the Competition comprising the Competition Semi-Finals and Competition Final matches set out in Regulations 3.3.3;
<b>Competition-Stage One</b>	the first stage of the Competition involving the Clubs playing each other on a home and away basis in accordance with Regulation 3.3.1;
<b>Commercial Partner</b>	means a party designated by the RFU to whom the RFU has licensed any of the Commercial Rights;
<b>Commercial Rights</b>	means any and all sponsorship and other commercial rights in and to the Competition and the Matches (including the rights granted to the Title Sponsor pursuant to the Title Sponsorship Agreement, the Broadcast Rights and other rights), any material produced in connection therewith or as a consequence thereof, and all rights relating to the Marks;
<b>Disciplinary Regulations</b>	means those disciplinary rules, regulations and procedures set out or referred to in the RFU Rules and RFU Regulation 19 and its appendices;

<b>England Player</b>	a Player selected by the RFU to be in the senior England Women squad, U20s England Women squad or 7s England Women squad;
<b>EQP Payment</b>	such payment that the RFU agrees to pay the Club pursuant to the terms of the Participation Agreement in respect of the Club meeting its obligations to field the requisite number of EQP Players in a match day squad;
<b>EQP</b>	a female Player who is eligible to be selected for and to play for England in accordance with World Rugby Regulation 8 and in respect of whom the Club has provided to the RFU with all such supporting documentation as the RFU may request in order to evidence the Player's EQP status;
<b>Fixture List</b>	the list for the time being of Competition fixtures referred to in Regulation 4;
<b>Fourth Official</b>	a fourth official who shall be responsible, under the authority of the Referee, for the touchline operation of replacements, including the blood bin and sin bin;
<b>Home Club</b>	shall mean in relation to a Match (save for the Final), the Club who is responsible for organising the venue for the fixture;
<b>League Points</b>	shall mean the competition points awarded to a Club following a Match;
<b>Loaning</b>	means the loaning of a player on a formal basis for which a written agreement is required between the clubs and any loaning of players must be done in accordance with the loaning process stipulated by the RFU. 'Loan' and 'Loan Player' shall be construed accordingly;
<b>Marks</b>	means the trade marks, names, logos and titles of the RFU and/or the Competition;
<b>Match or Competition Match</b>	means a Match played in the Competition and to which these Regulations apply;
<b>Match Official</b>	means any person appointed by the relevant authority to officiate upon a match including a referee and the assistant referees;
<b>Overseas Player</b>	any Player playing the game of rugby union football in any Union other than the RFU;
<b>Organising Committee</b>	means the committee appointed by the RFU to manage the Competition;
<b>Participation Agreement</b>	the agreement entered into between the RFU and the Club setting out the terms of the Club's participation in the Competition and which includes the minimum operating standards pertaining to the Competition;
<b>Regulations</b>	means these Regulations of the Competition;

<b>RFU</b>	means the Rugby Football Union who shall have responsibility for the administration and commercial aspects of the Competition;
<b>Sponsorship Agreement</b>	means the commercial agreement or agreements entered into or to be entered into relating to the sponsorship of the Competition or relating to other commercial rights arising in relation to the Competition;
<b>Union</b>	means the RFU;
<b>Weekend</b>	any Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Public Holiday; and
<b>World Rugby</b>	means the world governing body of the game of rugby union football of which the RFU is a member.

Any terms not defined in these Regulations shall have the meanings set out in RFU Regulation 1 or in the RFU Rules (as applicable).

## **1. Interpretation**

- 1.1 Where the context so admits:
- (i) words importing the singular shall include the plural and vice versa;
  - (ii) words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender; and
  - (iii) words importing persons shall include firms, corporations and unincorporated associations.
- 1.2 Section, Regulation and Appendix headings are for ease of reference only and shall not affect the construction of these Regulations.

## **2. Governance & Administration**

- 2.1 The RFU shall be responsible for the regulation of the Competition and the administration and organisational aspects shall be the responsibility of the Organising Committee.
- 2.2 These Regulations may be varied from time to time (whether by way of alteration, addition, deletion or otherwise) by the RFU. The RFU will consult with the Clubs or with an entity delegated by them before varying these Regulations.
- 2.3 The RFU shall have the power to delegate any of its powers, duties or obligations under these Regulations to the Organising Committee, who in turn may delegate as it so determines to the RFU Rugby Events and Competitions Department.
- 2.4 These Regulations are supplemental to the RFU Regulations which, for the avoidance of doubt, shall have full force and effect save to the extent that the RFU Regulations are varied by these Regulations. In the event of conflict between these Regulations and the RFU Regulations, these Regulations will prevail and the RFU Regulations (to the extent that they affect the Clubs) are deemed varied by these Regulations.

- 2.5 If any of the provisions of these Regulations shall be found to be void or unenforceable, such provisions shall be deemed to be deleted from these Regulations and the remaining provisions of these Regulations shall continue in full force and effect and the RFU shall use its reasonable endeavours following the procedures laid down by Regulation 2.2 above to procure that such provision is replaced by a provision which is valid and enforceable and which gives effect to the spirit of these Regulations.
- 2.6 A rugby union club shall not be entitled to be or to remain a participant of the Competition unless it is a member of the RFU or licensed to play in the Competition by the RFU and has signed up, and adheres to, the provisions of the Participation Agreement pertaining to the Competition.
- 2.7 Participation in the Competition shall constitute an agreement between the RFU and each of the Clubs, to the same extent as if they had each signed and sealed these Regulations, to be bound by and to comply with:
- 2.7.1 these Regulations and the schedules attached;
  - 2.7.2 the Laws of the Game;
  - 2.7.3 the Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws for the time being of World Rugby and RFU;
  - 2.7.4 the Club's Participation Agreement (including the Minimum Operating Standards and the Minimum Medical Standards);
  - 2.7.5 any sponsorship agreement, or such other commercial rights agreements, entered into by the RFU in respect of the Competition;
  - 2.7.6 such other agreements entered into of which the Clubs is notified.
- 2.8 If a Club's Participation Agreement expires or is terminated for any reason then the Club's participation in the Competition may also be terminated by the RFU (such decision to be made in the sole discretion of the RFU).
- 2.9 All Clubs must ensure that all players, coaching personnel, medical personnel and/or such other individuals as notified to the Club by the RFU, complete in full any education modules that may be developed and prescribed by the RFU on such conditions and by the timeframe notified to those individuals who are required to complete the module. Any failure to comply with this regulation and/or failure by any individual who is required to complete the module by the stipulated timeframe may result in sanction which will be determined by the RFU.
- 2.10 All Clubs must have a valid health and safety certificate in respect of their ground at the time that the Matches are played at their ground.

### **3. The Competition**

- 3.1 The Competition shall be called such name as is decided upon by the RFU which may include the name of the sponsor and shall be played between the Clubs authorised by the RFU to participate in the Competition.
- 3.2 All matches in the Competition shall be played in accordance with these Regulations, the World Rugby Laws of the Game of Rugby Union Football and World Rugby Regulations (including such Law variations and other variations as may be agreed by the RFU and World Rugby).
- 3.3 The Competition will comprise of two stages:
- 3.3.1 during the Competition - Stage One, each Club shall play each other Club on a home and away basis;
- 3.3.2 at the conclusion of the Competition – Stage One, the top four Clubs will enter the Competition – Knock Out Stage as set out in Regulation 3.3.3.
- 3.3.3 The Competition – Knock Out Stage shall be:
- (i) the Competition Semi-Finals comprising the top four Clubs from the Competition – Stage One which shall play each other as follows:
- Semi-Final 1** – The Clubs in first and fourth place at the end of the Competition – Stage One shall play each other over two legs (home & away),
- Semi-Final 2** – The Clubs in second and third place at the end of the Competition – Stage One shall play each other over two legs (home & away),
- on the dates and at the times selected by the RFU.
- (ii) the Competition Final which shall comprise the two winning Clubs from the Competition Semi-Finals and will be played over one match at neutral venue on a date and time in the Season selected by the RFU.
- 3.4 The winner of the Competition Final shall be the Competition winner.
- 3.5 There will be no promotion and/or relegation from the Competition until the 2019/2020 Season (the RFU to determine and approve whether promotion and/or relegation shall be introduced and the Regulations shall be varied accordingly).
- 3.6 The following points shall be awarded based on the results of each Match (such points to be referred to as "League Points" to distinguish them from points scored on the field of play):
- 3.6.1 The Club that wins the Match shall be awarded four League Points or (if it scores four tries or more in the process) five points.
- 3.6.2 The Club that loses the Match shall be awarded no League Points or if it scores four tries or more in the process or loses by a margin of seven points or fewer one League Point or if it scores four tries or more in the process and loses by a margin of seven points or fewer two League Points.

- 3.6.3 Clubs that draw a Match shall each be awarded two League Points and any of them that scores four tries or more in the process shall also be awarded a further one League Point.
- 3.7 In the second leg semi-finals and the final, if after 40 minutes of play each way the scores are level, there shall be a five minute break (where the teams and players shall remain on the pitch) and then a period of extra time shall begin between the teams of 10 minutes each way, with a 1 minute interval. If the scores remain equal after this period of extra time then the winner will be the team which has scored the most tries in the game (including extra time). If the scores are level and the number of tries scored is equal, then there shall be a place kick competition (as set out in Appendix 1) to determine the winner.

#### **4. Fixtures & Kick-off Times**

- 4.1 All Matches shall be played on the dates scheduled in the Fixture List save;
- (i) where both Clubs agree to rearrange a fixture and the RFU has given its written approval, or
  - (ii) where the RFU decides to rearrange a fixture date and/or time if deemed appropriate, having consulted with both Clubs. Such decision shall be binding on each Club.
- 4.2 All Matches shall kick off at a time to be determined by the Home Club and notified to the Away Club and the RFU by the 1 August. Such kick off times must be approved by the RFU. If either Club wishes to change to kick off time, any change must be notified to the RFU at least 6 weeks in advance of the Match and approved by the RFU. In the event of a dispute as to kick off time, the kick off time shall be determined by the RFU.
- 4.3 The RFU will take the decision on the location of the final venue with regard to the best interests of the Clubs participating in the competition and any commercial issues.
- 4.4 In relation to a Match televised live, the RFU shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, determine the day on the published day and the time of kick off for such Competition Match and notify the relevant Clubs.
- 4.5 Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Regulations, the RFU shall have the absolute right to select or alter the proposed date or kick-off time.
- 4.6 All Matches shall be of 80 minutes duration, divided into two halves of 40 minutes each. In all Matches, the interval between each of the two halves shall be 15 minutes during which time the teams may leave the pitch.

#### Non-Fulfilment of fixture obligations

*NB: Lack of available players is not a valid reason for failing to fulfil a fixture.*

- 4.7 Each Club must comply with the schedule of pitch inspections agreed by the RFU in the days leading into any Match and on the day of the scheduled Match.
- 4.8 In adverse weather conditions, each Club must notify the RFU of any concern in relation to the condition of the pitch and notify the RFU of the steps it has taken to minimise disruption to any Match. The Club must maintain regular contact with the opposition, the RFU and the RFU's Head of PGMOT in relation to the condition of the pitch. The RFU may exercise its powers under Regulation 4.9 to require a Club to take appropriate action to ensure its pitch is being maintained to an adequate standard. It is the responsibility of the Home Club to monitor the weather conditions in the week leading into any Match.
- 4.9 The Referee shall determine if the ground is fit for play. Such decision will be made by the Referee (or his/her appointed nominee) as soon as possible before the scheduled kick off. However, where there is a possibility that conditions could change and the pitch be fit to allow the Match to go ahead, the Referee or other identified official, may decide to delay any decision until any time prior to kick off. If one team refuses to play it may be subject to disciplinary action and the burden of proof will be placed upon the Club who decided not to play to give an acceptable rationale for not playing.

#### Abandoned Matches – weather conditions

- 4.10 If weather conditions prevent a Match being played or a Match is abandoned because of such conditions with less than sixty minutes having been played, it is the responsibility of the Referee and the Home Club (other than in the Final in the knock out stage) to advise the Organising Committee (or its delegate) of the reason for non-playing or non-completion of the Match immediately following the abandonment and to provide the Organising Committee with a written report within 24 hours of the abandonment unless an extended period has been specified by the Organising Committee. The RFU will determine if the Match will be replayed on a date specified by the RFU (having first consulted with the RFU's Professional Rugby Director) or whether the result will stand.

Following the notification of the abandonment of the Match from the Referee (and/or Home Club) and having obtained advice in relation to the forecasted local weather conditions and being in receipt of any other information deemed by the Organising Committee to be relevant, the Organising Committee may determine that the Match be played on the next available date as determined by the Organising Committee.

- 4.11 If a Match is abandoned because of weather conditions when sixty or more minutes have been played, then the score at the moment of abandonment shall stand and be deemed the final score in the Match. The Referee's decision as to the necessity for abandonment and the number of minutes played at the moment of abandonment shall be final.

#### Abandoned Matches – any reason other than weather

- 4.12 If the Referee finds it necessary to abandon a Match for any reason other than weather conditions, then, irrespective of the number of minutes played, the result and score of that Match may be determined by the Organising Committee in its

absolute discretion but subject to the right of the affected Clubs to appeal the decision pursuant to RFU Regulation 19. The Organising Committee may order the Match to be replayed in which event the Match will take place on a date specified by the Organising Committee (having consulted first with the RFU's Professional Rugby Director).

#### Failure To Fulfil Obligations

- 4.13 No Club shall, without just cause (it being for the RFU, to determine whether or not just cause exists), fail to fulfil its fixture obligations in respect of a Match on the date and at the time appointed for such fixture.
- 4.14 In the event that a Club shall so fail to fulfil its fixture obligations in respect of a Match the RFU may, and subject to the Club's right of appeal pursuant to Regulation 13, in its absolute discretion award the League Points to either side, divide the League Points between the sides or decide that no League Points shall be awarded. If the RFU is of the view that a Club has unjustifiably failed to fulfil its fixture obligations in respect of a Match, it may in the case of Competition Matches deduct League Points from the Club and/or in the case of all Matches make an order for a fine to be imposed and/or award compensation and/or award the result of the Match to the other Club. In addition or instead it may order the Match to be postponed or re-arranged or replayed on a date specified by it. All decisions made by the RFU pursuant to this Regulation 4.14 shall be subject to the right of the affected Clubs to appeal the decision pursuant to RFU Regulation 19.
- 4.15 Any Club which is suspended from playing rugby union football for disciplinary reasons will not be permitted to re-arrange any Match falling within the period of the suspension. The effects thereof on the non-offending Clubs in the Competition shall be dealt with by the RFU (having consulted with the Organising Committee) in its absolute discretion but subject to a right of appeal by any affected Club.
- 4.16 In addition to whether or not a penalty is imposed upon a Club by the Organising Committee or the RFU, where in the opinion of the RFU the Club has failed to honour its Match obligations, a Club shall be liable to pay to any opposing Club compensation in respect of the losses, damages, liabilities, costs or expenses suffered or incurred by such opposing Club as a result of such failure. The amount of such compensation will in default of agreement between the Clubs be determined by the RFU and a Club may appeal the compensation award in accordance with RFU Regulation 19.

### **5. Player Eligibility & Match Squads**

- 5.1 Subject to the other provisions of these Regulations, a Club may only play or select as a replacement, players who:
- 5.1.1 are registered with the RFU on the RFU's Game Registration Management System in accordance with the requirements of the RFU by 12 noon on the Friday before the weekend on which the Match is being played (and in the case of Friday matches, by 12 noon on the day before the match is being played); and

- 5.1.2 do not have a contract and/or registration with any other rugby union body, entity or club such as would prevent the players from playing for the Club or in the Competition at the date of the Match; and
  - 5.1.3 an application for registration of an Overseas Player wishing to be registered with a club in England must be accompanied by a Clearance (as defined in World Rugby Regulation 1) from her current Union.
- 5.2 The record held by the RFU is the only and conclusive evidence of a player's eligibility in relation to a Club (save in the case of such registration having been made as a result of inaccurate, false or misleading information having been provided in which case the player will not be eligible) and if a player is on the match result card but not on the RFU's record as being eligible to play for a Club, that player will be deemed ineligible.
- 5.3 A Club participating in the Competition must:
- 5.3.1 have at least an average of 14 EQPs in a Match day squad (for the First XV team only) in the Competition over the season to be eligible for the EQP Payments in accordance with the EQP Scheme Guidelines as supplied by the RFU. For the avoidance of doubt, there will be no EQP requirements for the second XV competition;
  - 5.3.2 not have more than 60 Players registered across the first and second teams at the Club at any one time.
- 5.4 After each Match, the RFU will check the match result card against the relevant list submitted to the RFU Rugby Events and Competitions Department and if a player is on the match result card but not on the submitted list, that player will be deemed ineligible.
- 5.5 A Club may not select as a Player or as a replacement for any Match any England Player where such selection would cause a breach of any agreement that the England Player may have with the RFU.
- 5.6 Notwithstanding any other provision in these Regulations, no Player may participate in the Competition whilst serving a disciplinary suspension imposed under the Disciplinary Regulations or by her Club, the Union with jurisdiction over her Club, or any other competent party, whether such suspension has been imposed pursuant to these Regulations, the rules or regulations of that Club or Union, the rules of any other rugby union competition, World Rugby or the Regulations relating to the Game.

### **Player Transfers**

- 5.7 A Player may only transfer from one club to another club on one occasion in any one Season, subject to the remaining provisions of these Regulations and unless otherwise approved in writing by the RFU Rugby Events and Competitions Department.

- 5.8 In the event of a Player transferring from one club to another, a Player transfer form must be completed and signed by an officer of the current club and the new club prior to it being submitted to the RFU Rugby Events & Competitions Department.
- 5.9 An officer of the current club may refuse to sign the transfer form where:
- 5.9.1 the Player has a Contract with the current club which has not yet expired;
  - 5.9.2 the Player is being disciplined under RFU Rule 5.12;
  - 5.9.3 the Player owes money to the club under applicable RFU or World Rugby Regulations.
- Any such objection must be submitted in writing to the RFU Rugby Events & Competitions Department stating all the grounds upon which the objection is made within 7 days of being notified of the proposed transfer.
- 5.10 Once completed, all transfer forms must be submitted to the RFU Rugby Events & Competitions Department who will confirm the date from which the transferred Player will be permitted to play for the new club. If a Player has played one or more matches for the previous club in the current Season, there is a 7 day waiting period from the date of receipt by the RFU Rugby Events and Competitions Department of the transfer form during which time the Player will not be permitted to play for the new club.
- 5.11 The transfer deadline for all clubs to register additional players (including Loan players) is 12 noon on the 9th March 2018 (the RFU stipulated waiting period having been completed by the transfer deadline), unless otherwise approved in writing by the RFU Rugby Events and Competitions Department.

### **Movement of Players between teams inside a Club**

- 5.12 Any player representing the first or second team of a Club must be registered with the Club in accordance with the RFU registration process and subject to the 60 player registration cap set out in Regulation 5.3.2. These players may be selected to represent either the first or second team of the Club.
- 5.13 A Player representing the first or second team may also be selected to represent the third team of the Club unless such player has been selected in a first or second team match day squad on 8 or more occasions or has played in the last first or second team match of the season. In such cases a player is no longer permitted to represent the third team of the Club. This restriction does not apply to the BUCS league.

### **Loan Player**

For the purposes of these Regulations, 'Loaning' and 'Borrowing' shall be defined as set out in Clause 1 above.

- 5.14 Clubs in this Competition can Loan players from any club at Championship 1 and below. No side can play more than 2 Loan players in any match day squad.

5.15 Clubs in this Competition can Loan players to any club at Championship 1 but cannot Loan players to any club at Championship 2 and below.

5.16 No Borrowing is permitted as between a Club in this Competition and any other club.

#### Match Squads – Replacements

5.17 In each Match up to seven (7) replacements and substitutes are permitted in accordance with World Rugby Law 3 and World Rugby resolutions/rulings/directives relating thereto and the Clubs shall comply with such Law and resolutions/rulings/directives.

5.18 In the interests of safety each team playing in the Competition must have at least five (5) fit and able Players of 18 years of age or older in the squad who can play at hooker, tight head prop and loose head prop who are suitably trained and experienced to ensure that on the first occasion that a replacement in any front row position is required (whether due to injury or consequent to a Player(s) being temporarily suspended or ordered off) the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums.

5.19 If on any occasion where uncontested scrums are ordered by the Referee as a result of there being no suitably trained and experienced front row replacement for any reason (which includes injury, temporary blood injury, temporary exclusion (i.e. following a yellow card) or permanent exclusion (i.e. following a sending off)), the team concerned shall not be entitled to replace the Player whose departure caused the uncontested scrums. On return to the field of play of the front row Player who has been temporarily excluded or injured the Match shall continue with contested scrums.

5.20 If a Match is completed and contained uncontested scrums, the Club that was responsible for causing uncontested scrums must upon the request of the RFU provide to the RFU such information as it may require including if requested a medical report identifying the injuries sustained by its front row Players which must be signed by the Club Doctor. The RFU may take such action it deems appropriate in respect of any suspected, alleged or actual breach of Regulations 5.15 to 5.21 and shall notify all Clubs of any action taken, if any. Any Club may appeal against the decision of the RFU in accordance with RFU Regulation 19.

5.21 In every case where a Player needs to leave the field with a bleeding or open wound (“blood injury”) a member of the opposition medical team has the right to request that the injury is assessed before any temporary replacement is authorised. That request must be made through the Fourth Official prior to the Fourth Official confirming any change with the Referee. The injury must be examined in the technical zone under the supervision of the Fourth Official.

5.22 In circumstances where a member of a Club's medical team feels that there is a need to assess a blood injury of an opposition Player after a temporary replacement has been authorised, this request will also be made through the Fourth Official who will facilitate an assessment with the opposition's medical team.

- 5.23 All requests to assess an injury of an opposition Player which are made through the Fourth Official will be the subject of a report from the Fourth Official which will be provided to the Organising Committee. The Organising Committee will have the ability to request any further information from any party connected to the Club(s) as it sees appropriate.
- 5.24 The Substitution Protocol set out in Appendix 2 shall apply.

#### Match Squads – Announcements

- 5.25 Each Club shall announce the team selected to represent it in a particular Match (numbered in accordance with World Rugby Regulations as if the Match were an international match) to the RFU Rugby Events and Competitions Department and to the media no later than 12 noon on Friday before Saturday or Sunday or Bank Holiday Monday Matches and, in the case of Matches taking place on any other days, no later than 12 noon on the day immediately prior to such Match.
- 5.26 Any changes to a team selected for a particular Match caused by legitimate injury or illness to a player after the official announcement detailed in Regulation 5.25 must be communicated to the RFU Rugby Events and Competitions Department in the first instance and to the media and to the public via Club controlled social media platforms, as soon as reasonably practicable before the Match and in any event promptly upon the Club becoming aware of the need for such change.

#### **6. Match Result Card**

- 6.1 An authorised representative of a Club participating in a Match must submit to the Referee for such Match, at least one hour before the kick-off time for such Match, a Match Result Card (in such form as the Organising Committee and RFU may from time to time determine which may be an electronic match card) containing a list of the full names of each of the Players of that Club who are to take part or act as replacements in such Match.
- 6.2 If a Player on the Match Result Card submitted to the Referee in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 6.1 sustains an injury after such Match Result Card is submitted to the Referee but before kick-off of the Match, she may be replaced by another Player and the Referee must be informed of this immediately and such Match Result Card must be amended by the Club accordingly.
- 6.3 Within one hour of the end of the Match the Referee shall complete each Match Result Card submitted to him/her in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 6.1 by inserting the result of such Match (including the number of tries, goals and penalty goals scored and the timing of any replacements or substitutions during such Match) and shall sign (which may include an electronic signature) and submit such Match Result Card to the relevant Club.
- 6.4 The Home Club shall, within two hours after the end of the Match, complete and sign (which may include an electronic signature) the Match Result Card, obtain the signature (which may include an electronic signature) from the Away Club and submit it to the Organising Committee with a copy to the RFU or such person or

agency as he/she may determine and notify the Clubs from time to time. The RFU shall hold the definitive table of results for the Competition.

- 6.5 The Match Result Card will be the only evidence acceptable from a Club of the names of the Players who played or were replacements for the Match without prejudice to the right of the Club to produce supporting evidence in the event of a question being raised.

## **7. Playing Kit**

- 7.1 By the end of May preceding the start of the Competition each Club shall give to the Organising Committee written details of its first and second choice of colours in relation to Match jerseys, shorts and socks. Such details shall be provided in electronic format which shall clearly show the artwork of the jerseys, shorts and socks. For avoidance of doubt, the first choice must be predominantly one colour with the second a total contrast.

- 7.2 The Organising Committee shall determine which choice of colours a Club wears in any Match.

- 7.3 In Matches Players' jerseys may carry advertising subject to any requirement from time to time specified by the RFU and/or World Rugby.

- 7.4 In Matches, jerseys shall be numbered in accordance with World Rugby Regulations.

## **8. Match Officials**

- 8.1 The Match Officials shall be appointed by the RFU from a pool of referees and assistant referees.

- 8.2 In the event that a Match is televised, a television match official may be appointed by the RFU for any Match and in which case, the World Rugby TMO Protocol shall apply.

- 8.3 The Match Officials shall be required to wear such kit as may from time to time be determined by the RFU.

- 8.4 The Home Club is responsible for supplying an official from the Club to act as the Fourth Official.

## **9. Grounds and the Home Club**

- 9.1 Each Club shall register with the RFU the name and address of its principal home ground together with the Club's contracted standby ground, if it has one and any temporary ground.

- 9.2 Pursuant to Regulation 4.7, each Club shall take all reasonable steps to maintain its pitch to an adequate standard. The RFU may require a Club to take such steps as it shall specify if it is not satisfied that its pitch is being maintained to an adequate standard.

- 9.3 The Home Club is responsible for correctly and clearly marking its pitch to the satisfaction of the RFU and in accordance with the Laws of the Game and will use its best endeavours to remove any football or other markings which may also be visible on the pitch.
- 9.4 Each Club must make proper provision to ensure that all spectators are kept at a reasonable distance from the field of play and outside of the 5m run off area.
- 9.5 Each Club must make provision for two technical areas as outlined in Appendix 3 and shall ensure that all coaching and playing personnel comply with the requirements contained therein. In addition, each Club must ensure that both team replacements and coaching staff are not permitted pitch side except within the structures specifically provided for them or within the boundaries of the technical area or during half-time or, in the case of team replacements, for the purpose of warming up only, at the end of the pitch towards which such replacements' team is attacking.
- 9.6 The Home Club shall also provide an additional 10 seats in a reasonable location with close proximity to the dressing rooms for the support staff and travelling reserves of the Visiting Team. Each of these seats must have been identified and approved by the Organising Committee prior to the start of the Competition. The Organising Committee shall determine the location of these seats if the proposed location is not deemed by the Organising Committee to be in a reasonable location.
- 9.7 The Home Club shall provide the Away Club with six seats in two blocks of three, one behind the other, on, or in close proximity to, the halfway line (i.e. within the two 10 metre lines) in a reasonably elevated position with close proximity to the dressing rooms, for the coaching staff and match analysis staff of the Away Club. The Away Club seating must be positioned in order to protect both coaches, analysts and their equipment from rain and adverse weather conditions. Each of these seats must have been identified and approved by the Organising Committee prior to the start of the Competition and must have a fixed working area and have 240v power available for use by Club analysts. The Organising Committee shall determine the location of these seats if the proposed location is not deemed by the Organising Committee to be in a reasonable location and/or sufficiently protected from rain and adverse weather conditions.
- 9.8 Any Player temporarily suspended when playing in a Match must remain in the technical area or leave the playing enclosure and be clearly and readily identifiable to the Fourth Official.
- 9.9 Any Player ordered off must leave the playing enclosure and must retire to the changing rooms or stands. For the avoidance of doubt, a Player may not remain in the technical area or pitch side once she has received a red card from the Referee.
- 9.10 The Home Club is responsible for making available to the Match Officials separate suitable changing room facilities; and
- 9.11 Where required by the Organising Committee, the Home Club is responsible for making available seating for the time keeper operating the countdown clock and the referee manager all with an appropriate working area away from and outside of the vicinity of the coaching staff of the Away Club and Home Club and having the

location of such area approved by the Organising Committee prior to the start of the Competition. The Organising Committee shall determine the location of these seats if the proposed location is not deemed by the Organising Committee to be in a suitable location with an appropriate working area.

- 9.12 The Home Club is responsible, subject to Regulations 4.7-9, making available on request by the Away Club the use of the pitch for a captain's run of for up to 1 hour on the day before the Match. Such request shall be made by the Away Club at least 48 hours prior to kick-off of the Match.
- 9.13 The Home Club is responsible for making available to the Away Club the pitch for their pre-match warm up unless adverse weather conditions prevent both teams from warming up on the pitch. In the event that both teams are unable to warm up on the pitch a suitable area must be provided to the Away Club.
- 9.14 Any Club with the facility of and which plays matches under floodlights at any time of the Season is required to provide lights of sufficient lux value so as to ensure the playing of the match is safe. Illumination levels must be checked by a suitably qualified electrical engineer and recorded against the levels of light required for the standard of play and shall be not less than 350 lux in respect of televised Match and not less than 200 lux for all other competitive matches and 100 lux for training. Clubs that use floodlights for a Match are required to have them turned on at the start of the Match.
- 9.15 The Home Club is responsible for filming the matches and will make available the match footage to the RFU and the Away Club and will comply with the match footage standards set out in the Minimum Operating Standards.

## **10. Medical Matters**

- 10.1 It is the responsibility of both Clubs in Competition Matches to ensure that each Club has an appropriately qualified healthcare practitioner present pitch side to attend to Players, the Referee and the Assistant Referees before, during the Match, at half-time and immediately after the Match. To be considered an appropriately qualified healthcare practitioner the individual must be qualified in accordance with RFU guidelines and/or has undertaken a minimum of the RFU's Immediate Care in Sport Course Level 2 qualification or equivalent.
- 10.2 It is the responsibility of the Home Club to ensure that reasonable medical facilities are available for the use of such medical professionals. The medical elements of the Minimum Standards Criteria must be complied with by Clubs at all times.

## **11. Finance, Broadcasting, Sponsorship, Ticketing & Media**

- 11.1 In addition to clauses 11.5 to 11.33, each Club shall adhere to the commercial and/or media requirements as notified from time to time in writing by the Organising Committee. Such additional commercial and/or media requirements include but are not limited to match branding, use of big screens, naming rights, media rights and use of the Competition logo.

## Finance

- 11.2 Each Club shall be responsible for its own travelling and accommodation expenses throughout the Competition.
- 11.3 The Home Club (including in the relevant semi-final) bears all the costs of organising its Home game(s).
- 11.4 The Home Club (including in the relevant semi-final) shall receive 100% of all gate receipts, vending receipts, food, beverage and hospitality receipts, programme and advertising receipts and any other income (other than that arising under any central commercial and/or sponsorship and/or broadcasting agreement).

## Broadcasting

- 11.5 The RFU shall have the exclusive rights to enter into, or authorise the entry into, of contracts for the grant of Broadcasting rights in respect of the Matches and to determine which Matches should be broadcast.
- 11.6 Clubs undertake to provide such rights, facilities and other services and to do such acts and things as may be necessary to enable the RFU to fulfil or enable fulfilment of any contract referred to in Regulation 11.5, including (but without limitation) providing access to enable television/production companies to film Matches at the grounds of relevant Clubs.
- 11.7 Subject to Regulation 11.5 above, no Matches shall be broadcast in any form or recorded without the prior written approval of the RFU.
- 11.8 For the avoidance of doubt and except as otherwise agreed in writing by the RFU, Clubs shall have no rights or interests whatsoever in any Broadcasting rights in respect of the Matches or any material produced in connection therewith or as a consequence thereof.
- 11.9 Except as expressly permitted by these Regulations, each Club shall not and will not permit any third party to film, record and/or transmit (which includes streaming) audio or audio-visual signals of any Match and/or any other content relating to the Competition.
- 11.10 Except as permitted by Regulations 11.12 and 11.19, each Club shall not distribute, transmit or broadcast, or authorise any third party to distribute, transmit or broadcast, any Footage of a Match.
- 11.11 Except with the prior consent of the RFU (both in principle and to the final product), no Club shall (or shall authorise any third party to) create, produce, manufacture, license or distribute any product featuring any Footage of a Match.
- 11.12 Each Club shall feature on any Club Website only such Footage as provided by the RFU or its authorised provider for online content. Such Footage may be used in a Club's own production provided that:
  - (i) such production is no more than 5 minutes in duration (in aggregate);

- (ii) such production featuring Footage relating to a particular Match does not appear on any Club Website before 0900hrs on the Tuesday (if the relevant Match took place on the previous Friday) or 0900hrs on the Wednesday (if the relevant Match took place on a Saturday or Sunday);
  - (iii) it is not used for standalone highlights; and
  - (iv) no fee is payable (directly or indirectly) in order to access the production.
- 11.13 Save as set out in Regulations 11.12 and 11.19, Footage shall not be distributed by the Club in any form whatsoever, including to any company, organisation or individual, or via any website, without the express written permission of the RFU (acting in its absolute discretion).
- 11.14 Each Club shall provide all access and support as the Broadcast Partner(s) may reasonably require in order for the Broadcast Partner(s) to exercise the Broadcast Rights.
- 11.15 The RFU shall notify the Clubs of the schedule of Matches selected to be broadcast live by the Broadcast Partner(s) on such notification dates as the RFU shall notify to Clubs prior to the commencement of the Competition.
- 11.16 The RFU shall use its reasonable endeavours to notify each Club of a Broadcast Partner's intention to exercise any of the Broadcast Rights in respect of a Match that is to be broadcast live and in which that Club is participating no less than one calendar month before the day of the Match.
- 11.17 Where a Match is to be broadcast live by a Broadcast Partner, the RFU shall be entitled to require that the relevant Match takes place at a time and date specified by the RFU and notified to the participating Clubs in advance.
- 11.18 Six weeks prior to the commencement of the Competition, parking and accreditation requirements of the Broadcast Partner(s) shall be agreed between the RFU, the Club and the Broadcaster Partner(s) (acting in good faith) by email. Each Club will provide free of charge that number of car parking and accreditation passes in advance of and in respect of each Match intended to be broadcast by a Broadcast Partner.
- 11.19 With the prior written approval of the RFU and the relevant Broadcast Partner (if the RFU notifies the Club that such approval is required under any Broadcasting Agreement), a Club may arrange for a Match in which it is involved to be relayed (only using content provided by a Broadcast Partner) by closed circuit television to other locations, provided that no such approval is required where it is relayed via giant screens located within the Home Club's ground.

### Sponsorship

- 11.20 Each Sponsorship Agreement shall be binding upon each Club, insofar as it affects or relates to the Club, provided that the terms of the Sponsorship Agreement have been notified to the Club and for so long as such Club participates in the Competition. No Club shall enter into a new commercial arrangement which causes the RFU to be in breach of any agreement with a Commercial Partner or otherwise conflicts with the Commercial Rights.

- 11.21 Each Club grants the RFU the right (which the RFU may sub-license) to use any logos, player imagery or other intellectual property rights of such Club (and its players) in connection with the exploitation of any or all of the Commercial Rights, including:
- (i) in advertising and promotional material relating to the Competition and/or a Match;
  - (ii) to promote the association of any Commercial Partner with the Competition and/or a Match;
  - (iii) on and in connection with the Competition's and the RFU's website(s); and
  - (iv) for such other purpose as the Club may agree from time to time.
- 11.22 The RFU is the absolute owner of the Commercial Rights and the RFU may (in its absolute discretion) exploit all or some of the Commercial Rights, authorise a third party to exploit all or some of the Commercial Rights, or elect to exploit none or some of the Commercial Rights. No Club shall have any rights or interests whatsoever in or in respect of the Commercial Rights, except that:
- (i) each Club shall have the non-exclusive right to enter into contracts in respect of the Commercial Rights in respect of Matches at which it is the Home Club provided such contracts are not in conflict with any of the Sponsorship Agreements or Regulations; and
  - (ii) subject to Regulation 11.22(i), each Club shall have the right, in respect of Matches at which it is the Home Club, to enter into (or authorise or permit the entry into of) an agreement with a third party granting that third party the right to associate itself with such Match(es), provided always that such right shall be strictly limited to the third party's name or branding being used in connection with the Match in the following manner: "[Relevant Match] in association with [relevant third party]" or such other similar manner as may be approved in writing by the Organising Committee. Such agreement must not be with a competitor of a Commercial Partner.
  - (iii) For the avoidance of doubt, no Club shall enter into or authorise or permit the entry into of any other agreement in respect of naming rights or other similar rights in relation to a Match.
- 11.23 At all reasonable times and in any event not less than 24 hours prior to the kick-off of any Match, the Home Club shall procure access to the facilities at the venue for the personnel and representatives of the RFU and any Commercial Partner to enable the RFU and/or the Commercial Partner (as the case may be) to exploit the Commercial Rights, as set out in these Regulations.

### Ticketing

11.24 In respect of each of its home Matches, a Club shall, upon request of the RFU:-

11.24.1 provide to the RFU for use by the RFU:

- 50 best category tickets, free of charge;
- 4 car park passes, free of charge;
- A table for 10 people at a match at each Club;
- The right to purchase additional tickets

- 250 complimentary tickets to each of the semi-finals
- 11.24.2 provide at least ten (10) best category tickets to the Away Club, free of charge for the use of the Away Club's directors and committee members; such tickets shall include the provision of hosted hospitality free of charge;
- 11.24.3 provide at least fifty (50) best category tickets to the Away Club, free of charge for the use of the Away Club's Players, Officials and/or other representatives, and the Away Club shall notify the Home Club as soon as reasonably practicable if the same are not required;
- 11.24.4 make at least five hundred (500) tickets (at least half of which shall be seated), in blocks of no fewer than ten (10) tickets together, available for purchase by the Away Club, on a sale or return basis, with the deadline for returns being fourteen (14) days before the Match;
- 11.24.5 provide on request to any Sponsor the number of tickets required by any Sponsorship Agreement; and
- No Home Club shall charge higher prices to supporters of the Away Club for admission comparable with that used by supporters of the Home Club (not being members of the Home Club) who arrive at its ground on the day of a Match seeking a ticket for admission.
  - Payment for tickets sold in respect of a Match by the Away Club and for any tickets supplied to the Away Club but not returned to the Home Club shall be made by the Away Club to the Home Club no later than fourteen (14) days before the Match.

### Media

- 11.25 For the mutual benefit of all of the Clubs, each Club including its Players, Coaches, employees and representatives, agree to promote the Competition's interests at all times and to always uphold the sport's core values of teamwork, discipline, respect, sportsmanship and enjoyment.
- 11.26 Each Club shall appoint a designated Media Manager who shall be responsible for ensuring the Club's compliance with the media requirements set out in these Regulations and shall attend each of the Club's matches in the Competition.
- 11.27 At the request of the RFU, each Club shall facilitate pre-Match media access which shall take place between two and five days prior to each Match. The Club shall procure the attendance of the team's head coach and where reasonable possible the attendance of a player selected to play in the relevant Match.
- 11.28 At least one hour prior to kick-off the Home Club shall provide accurate teams sheets for each Club participating in the relevant Match to the media and broadcasters. Such team sheet shall include the Competition logo.
- 11.29 For Broadcast Matches only, the Home Club shall provide an area close to the pitch, or in another area agreed before the Match with the Organising Committee, free of

undue disturbance and equipped with all relevant facilities, for “flash” interviews immediately following the Match.

- 11.30 For Broadcast Matches only, each Club shall procure the attendance of the head coach and Player for “flash” interviews.
- 11.31 At the request of the RFU, the Home Club shall arrange media activity to take place promptly after the end of the Match. If required this should be held in a suitably equipped and secure room capable of accommodating at least 20 media representatives. Each Club shall procure the attendance of at least the head coach and captain of the team or, in the absence of the captain, an alternative senior player of the team. Each Club shall also procure an additional player for interviews with press for Monday newspapers if requested.
- 11.32 The Home Club must provide adequate working facilities for representatives of the media at the Home Club’s ground, including a dedicated SSID/wireless internet connection (operating at 2.4GHz and 5GHz) for use in the media room, photographers’ room and on press benches situated at the Club’s home ground. The internet connection must be provided via a dedicated fibre leased line with a download and upload speed of not less than 100mb. Each Home Club must also provide a back-up ADSL broadband line facility for use in the event that the fibre connection fails. Each Home Club shall ensure that no less than 20 Ethernet ports shall be available at the Home Club ground for such purpose, and ISDN points must also be provided on the same basis.
- 11.33 Each Home Club must make available, free of charge, not less than [30] designated parking spaces at or in the immediate proximity of the Home Club’s ground on the day of a Match for representatives of the media to park their vehicles.

## **12. Discipline and Breaches of Regulations**

### Discipline

- 12.1 The RFU has the power to investigate all allegations of foul play or misconduct on or off the field of play and shall be dealt with in accordance with RFU Regulation 19 and its appendices.

### Breaches of Regulations

- 12.2 Any matters alleged to be in breach of these Regulations and/or RFU Regulations shall be referred immediately to the Organising Committee; c/o the RFU Rugby Events & Competitions Department in writing or by telephone if necessary, within 24 hours following the conclusion of a match. In any event written confirmation must be sent to the RFU Events & Competitions Department within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match setting out the grounds of the complaint/breach in full.
- 12.3 Subject to a right of appeal in accordance with RFU Regulation 19, the Organising Committee shall have the power to discipline any Club, player or other individual for breach of any of these Regulations and/or any RFU Regulations. Ignorance of these Regulations will not be deemed an excuse in the event of breach.

- 12.4 The Organising Committee shall have jurisdiction to impose such penalty as it thinks fit including, but not limited to, financial sanctions, points deduction and suspension. For the avoidance of doubt, this power shall include a power to impose any sanction which could be imposed for breach of any RFU Regulation which is equivalent to a breach of these regulations or for a breach of any other RFU Regulation.

### **13. Miscellaneous**

#### Compliance

- 13.1 In consideration of the monies it is entitled to receive through its participation in the Competition each Club by commencing its first Match in and/or entering the Competition agrees it has entered into a legally binding commitment and legally binding obligations with the RFU and the RFU and as separate, obligations with each other Club in the Competition and with any broadcaster or sponsor of the Competition.

#### Governing Law & Jurisdiction

- 13.2 These Regulations and any disputes or differences arising in relation to them shall be governed in all respects by English law.
- 13.3 Any dispute arising out of or in connection with these Regulations (including any dispute or question about the existence or validity of these Regulations) shall be resolved in accordance with these Regulations and decisions made pursuant to these Regulations shall be final and binding on all Clubs, players and other parties under the jurisdiction of these Regulations.

#### Good Faith

- 13.4 No Club, either by itself, its servants or agents, shall by any means whatsoever unfairly criticise, disparage, belittle or discredit any other Club, the Matches or the RFU or any of their respective Directors, officers, employees or agents.

#### Notices

- 13.5 Any notice required to be given or served under or in connection with these Regulations shall be in writing and:
- (i) may be given to the RFU at its registered office for the time being or at such other address as it may notify in writing to the Clubs for such purpose; and
  - (ii) may be given to a Club, its Officials and Players at that Club's ground or at such other address as that Club may notify in writing to the RFU for such purpose.

## Appendix One

### **Place Kick Competition**

If at the end of a second leg semi-final or the final, after extra-time has been played, the scores remain equal and the number of tries scored in the Match is equal, then the referee will conduct a place-kick competition to determine the winner of the Match, according to the following procedures:

- o All players and the Match Officials will remain on the playing area. The referee will call the captains of the two teams at the end of the match to the centre of the pitch and will conduct two coin tosses. The first toss of the coin will determine which team selects the end of the playing area at which all place kicks will be taken; the second toss of the coin will determine which team kicks first or second.
- o The Match Officials and the six nominated players (3 from each side) will assemble on the halfway line. All other players and team management must remain in the technical areas. No one other than the Match Officials and the participating players are allowed in the playing area or behind the posts for the duration of the kicking competition.
- o Team A and Team B will each nominate 3 kickers from the players on the pitch at the end of extra time to participate in the place kick competition.
- o Each kicker will be allocated a number i.e. Kicker 1, Kicker 2 or Kicker 3. This designation cannot change.
- o If during the place kick competition any of the 3 kickers becomes injured she will be replaced by a player who was on the pitch at the end of extra time.
- o The first phase of the competition will consist of 6 kicks from 6 positions as outlined in the diagram below.
- o Each kicker will take 2 kicks in the following order:-
  - Kicker 1 from team A and Kicker 1 from team B will each take a kick from position 1.
  - Kicker 2 from team A and Kicker 2 from team B will each take a kick from position 2.
  - Kicker 3 from team A and Kicker 3 from team B will each take a kick from position 3.
  - Kicker 1 from team A and Kicker 1 from team B will each take a kick from position 4.
  - Kicker 2 from team A and Kicker 2 from team B will each take a kick from position 5.
  - Kicker 3 from team A and Kicker 3 from team B will each take a kick from position 6.

- o If the teams are level at the end of the 6 kick competition there will be a 'sudden death competition'. All kicks will take place from position 4 and kicks will be taken in the following order:-
  - First to kick will be Kicker 1 from each team.
  - Second to kick will be Kicker 2 from each team.
  - Third to kick will be Kicker 3 from each team.
  - Kicks will continue in this order until a point is reached where each team has taken the same number of sudden death kicks but one team has scored one more than the other team. When this point is reached the team that has scored more successful kicks will be declared the winner.
  
- o For the avoidance of doubt the referee is the sole judge of whether a kick has been successful. In reaching this decision the Match Referee may rely on assistance from his assistant referees and/or Television match official

## **Appendix Two**

### **Substitution Protocol**

- 1 Before the Match begins, each participating Club must advise the Fourth Official of its nominee to fill in and sign the substitution cards. The nominee should be the team manager, who must be in the technical zone during the Match.
- 2 When a Club decides to replace a Player on the Playing Area, the Club's nominee fills in the appropriate details on the substitution card and signs it. The numbers of the Player leaving the Playing Area and the Player replacing her must be written in the appropriate box on the substitution card.

When a Player leaves the field of play for a bleeding/open wound, the blood box will be ticked and the numbers of the leaving Player and the replacement Player will be entered in the appropriate box. The process is repeated when the first Player returns to the field of play.

The sin bin box is ticked when a Front Row Player has been sin-binned and another Front Row Player has to enter the Playing Area in order to ensure non-contested scrums do not occur. The numbers of the Player leaving the Playing Area to accommodate the replacement front row Player and the replacement Front Row Player must be written in the appropriate box on the substitution card.

The card does not represent a valid request until it is signed.

- 3 The card is then handed to the Fourth Official, who will check the details and then proceed with the substitution.
- 4 The Fourth Official will add the details to their substitution form.
- 5 Once the card has been passed to the Fourth Official, a substitution is only effective when the referee signals for the Player to be replaced. A Club may amend details on the card given to the 4th official until the replacement takes place. Any amendments to the card must be authorised by signature by the Club's nominated person.
- 6 During a Match, each Club will receive a different colour substitution card which will be decided by the Fourth Official.

## **Appendix Three**

### **Technical Area**

#### **1. Dimensions of the Technical Area**

- a. For all Competition Matches two technical areas shall be provided within the playing enclosure on the same side of the pitch, each one on either side of the half-way line and outside the field-of-play.
- b. These technical areas must be marked on the ground.
- c. The line nearest the touch line must be parallel to the touch line and be at least one metre from the field of play.
- d. The technical area must not exceed ten metres in length.
- e. Wherever practically possible the areas should be behind advertising hoardings with easy access to the field of play.

#### **2. Personnel permitted in the Technical Area**

- a. No more than two medically trained persons (certified doctors or physiotherapists only) and two water carriers (who may not be coaching personnel) per team are permitted to operate from the technical areas.
- b. One team manager (who may be coaching personnel) is permitted within the Technical Area and will identify himself/herself as the Team Manager to the officials.
- c. No other person (including other team officials) is permitted in the technical area.
- d. One other medically trained person (in addition to those identified in a. above) may be positioned on the far side of the playing area on the touch line opposite the technical area.
- e. Where practically possible any medical person operating on the far side of the field from the technical area must stay outside the advertising hoardings. The medical personnel may keep up with play, but must pay due regard to the needs and rights of players, Match Officials, spectators, broadcasters and commercial partners.
- f. All medical personnel may enter the field of play in accordance with Law at any time a player is injured. They must not obstruct, interfere or aim comments at Match Officials.

#### **3. Roles of personnel in the Technical Area**

- a. Water may only be taken on the field during stoppages in play for injuries in the playing area and when a try has been scored.
- b. The two water carriers are not permitted in the playing area during penalty kicks at goal.
- c. The water carriers must remain in the technical area at all times unless they enter the playing area to provide water or when one enters to provide a kicking tee to a kicker at a penalty kick.
- d. Players may come to the touch line adjacent to the technical area to receive water.

**4. Management of the Technical Area**

- a. All personnel permitted in the technical area must have some distinguishing mark e.g. arm bands/vests.
- b. The fourth officials will manage the technical areas. If there is a transgression of the protocol, the matter will be reported to the match referee.
- c. The match referee may caution any offender or at his discretion expel the person(s) from the playing enclosure for any breach of the protocol.

**5. Personnel outside of the Technical Area**

- a. The replacement bench and the location of any Clubs coaching teams should, wherever possible, be in a designated area within the stand and in close proximity to the halfway line and the technical area. In circumstances where this is not possible, each Club shall ensure that the replacements will remain seated within the technical area at all times, except when warming up.
- b. If replacements require warming up and there is not an area outside the playing enclosure, they may warm up in the opposition in-goal area.