

Rochester Cup Rugby Tournament

Official Tournament Guidelines

1. The name of the Tournament shall be "The Rochester Cup Rugby Tournament".
2. All teams are guaranteed a minimum of two (2) games.
3. The aim of the competition is to improve the standard of rugby and the image of the game as a spectator sport.
4. The tournament will be played under the laws of the game of Rugby Football as framed by the International Rugby Board (IRB) as accepted by United States of America Rugby Football Union (USARFU).
5. All Teams are eligible to enter the tournament. However, those teams who are members of New York State Rugby Union are the only teams eligible to compete for the Rochester Cup.
6. The tournament will be comprised of High School Boys and High School Girls Teams making up divisions based on age and skill. Divisions may consist of and are not limited to Premier, Seniors, Juniors, and/or Mini's
- a. Each division will be divided into groups, each with at least three teams, given appropriate participation. Each group shall play a round-robin competition. At the end of the round-robin play, all teams will be ranked first within their group and then among the other teams. Teams will be entered into the Single Elimination competitions based on their ranking given appropriate participation.
7. The tournament format is a 15-a-side tournament: Teams must have 18 player's minimum to begin a match. If just (1) team shows up with less than 18 players, the tournament directors reserve the right to alter the format to an appropriate format to allow competitive competition.
 - a. 15-a-side teams must have 18 players minimum.
 - b. 12-a-side teams must have 15 players minimum.
 - c. 10-a-side teams must have 13 players minimum.
 - d. 7-a-side teams must have 10 players minimum.
8. Seeding for the tournament is based on a blind draw, except for 1st seed. 1st seed is given to the participating team who possesses the cup the day of the tournament.
9. Teams must register all players with a numbered jersey before the start of competition, at which time the list cannot be changed for that day.
10. Spectators and players are required to remain at least 5 meters from the pitch. A maximum of two (2) coaches may be within 5-meters of the pitch. The designated coaches must not interfere or inhibit the touch judge(s) or referee. The coach must remain behind touch judge.
11. The referee will determine the start and finish of the game.
12. All refereeing and touch judge decisions will be final and no argument will be tolerated.
13. Players are only eligible to play for one team during the tournament, unless the opposing coach agrees to let other team use an ineligible player.
14. A club shall only be allowed to enter more than (1) team into the tournament, if the team meets the team requirement for the minimum number of players for the selected format for each team.
15. Any team not able to field a minimum of ten (10) players will be disqualified. All players are eligible to play for any of the remaining teams. Players not associated to a qualified team may fill the roster of a team disqualified for not meeting the minimum number of participants. Player assignment to the team(s) will be based on positional needs, and then random assignment to the team(s). The team will then be qualified to participate in the tournament, but not for the cup.
16. All game duration including the finals of each division will be based on the chosen format with the appropriate break between each half. Injury time shall be limited to no greater than five (5) minutes total for both halves, as determined by the referee. Severe injuries requiring on field emergency medical attention may be considered an exception to the limitation of injury time at the discretion of the match referee and the tournament officials. Play will consist of the following times based on format:
 - a. 15-a-side is format will be 20-minutes halves and a 5-minute half way.
 - b. 12-a-side is format will be 15-minutes halves and a 5-minute half way.
 - c. 10-a-side is format will be 10-minutes halves and a 5-minute half way.
 - d. 7-a-side is format will be 7-minutes halves and a 3-minute half way.
17. The maximum number of substitutions allowed per game is determined by the format as stated below. Teams may play as many players as the wish, so long as they are limited to the formats maximum substitutions per game.
 - a. 15-a-side is limited to six (6) substitutions.
 - b. 12-a-side is limited to five (5) substitutions.
 - c. 10-a-side is limited to four (4) substitutions.
 - d. 7-a-side is limited to three (3) substitutions.
18. Teams failing to field a team within 5 minutes from the published schedule are subject to a forfeit loss by a score of 14 to 0 (2 tries, 2 conversions). In the event of delay (due to injury, weather, etc.) the designated Official has sole discretion on changes to match times and cancelled/rescheduled matches where necessary. The designated Official will work with the Tournament Director and committee to render the best possible decision. If both teams are not "ready" then the decision of the Tournament Director is final.

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19. Each team must play in a matching kit. In the event of a kit conflict, the home team is deemed to be the team who traveled the shortest distance. In the case of kit issues in regard to color (at the discretion of the referee), the home team (the team who traveled the shortest distance) will be responsible for changing kit.
20. Teams will be ranked based on each round-robin group into first, second, and third placed teams. This will determine their placement for further competition.
21. Pool Play will consist of matches between teams within the same pool group. Teams are playing for seeding into the elimination finals. Ties stand in round robin matches, there is no overtime. Two (2) ranking points shall be awarded for a win and one (1) ranking point shall be awarded for a tie. No (0) points shall be awarded for a loss. Rankings of teams within a Group are based on total ranking points accumulated during the round robin competition. If at the end of the pool games two or three teams are equal on ranking points then the order shall be decided as follows:
 - a. The point differential between for and against, then if still tied
 - b. The team scoring the most points, then if still tied
 - c. The team scoring the most tries, then if still tied or if accurate tally of tries is not available:
 - d. The team scoring the most conversions, then if still tied or if accurate tally of conversion is not available:
 - e. The team scoring the most drops goals, then if still tied or if accurate tally of conversion is not
 - f. The team having the most penalties conversions, then if still tied or if accurate tally of conversion is not available:
 - g. The toss of a coin
22. The elimination competition will determine the tournament rankings and the overall tournament champion. This competition will consist of all stated guidelines, except in the event of a tie. If a tie occurs at the end of regulation time, overtime will consist of sudden death periods of 5 minutes. The first team to score in these periods is declared the winner. After each period, the teams change ends without an interval. The teams will alternate kicking off just as in regulation play.
23. In the case of injury (blood/bruising) medical staff have the final decision as to whether the player may continue in the game. In the case of serious injury (concussion, etc) the player may not continue in the match, and may not return to any match that day without medical staff consent.
24. Any player that receives a red card or is ejected from a match, the player will be suspended for the tournament, unless the referee chooses to waive this penalty.
25. A sin-bin will be used throughout the tournament. A player may be sent to the sin-bin for a minimum of 3 minutes with a maximum of the rest of that game. The player in the sin-bin shall stand behind the dead-ball line of the opposition's goal area. Any player sent to the sin-bin twice in the same day will not be allowed further participation in the tournament, unless the referee chooses to waive this penalty.
26. A protest must be lodged within 5 minutes of the conclusion of the game to the tournament director. A protest will be decided up on by the Tournament Committee mentioned in these rules.
27. The Tournament Committee will decide upon any protest lodged and the interpretation of the rules to be made and be presented by the tournament director. Their decision will be final and absolute. The committee will not contain any individual directly associated to any participating team. A committee member who is directly associated to any participating team shall concede their position and appoint an unbiased individual to fulfill their obligation. The committee shall be made up of:
 - a. One (1) Rochester Cup Tournament Director
 - b. One (1) Rochester Aardvarks RFC representative
 - c. One (1) Referee representative
28. The Tournament Director and Committee has power to change the format of the tournament should weather, injury or other circumstances require so, but the result of any game played cannot be changed.
29. The Guidelines of the Tournament, including the interpretation thereof and any additions thereto, shall be at the sole discretion of the Tournament Committee of the Rochester Cup Rugby Tournament.
30. Decisions by the Tournament Committee and Tournament Director are final.
31. Trophies will be awarded to the top 3 teams.
32. The highest placing team, who is a member of the NYS Rugby Union, from the boys and girls premier division will receive the official Rochester Cup. As guardians of the cup, they are required to accept a challenge from any Western NY U-19 rugby club. This challenge shall consist of a 15-a-side rugby match, lasting at least 20-minutes per half and shall be played under the laws of the game of Rugby Football as framed by the International Rugby Board (IRB) as accepted by United States of America Rugby Football Union (USARFU). The cup shall not change guardians if the game, prior to kick-off, is a considered a scrimmage or practice. The game must be played to win the cup and the cup may not be exchanged due to forfeit or cancellation.