

Annex I

Irish Rugby Football Union (Ulster Branch) Regulations For Youth Rugby In Ulster 2005-2006

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General Regulations

These General Regulations, together with any additional Regulations specific to particular Competitions shall apply to all Youth Competitions in Ulster.

They supersede all previous Regulations for Youth Rugby in Ulster.

Competitions

Each Competition shall be competed for annually by such Clubs, as the Branch Youth Committee shall determine. Any club in membership of the Ulster Branch of the Irish Rugby Football Union, excluding affiliated Schools and Colleges of Further Education, may submit an entry for any Competition.

Entrance into the Cup/Plate Competition is dependent on completing fixtures in the League. All competitions (less league) shall be on a knock out basis. A draw shall be made for the first round pairings and for any necessary preliminary round pairings. Second and subsequent rounds shall be paired in sequence from the first round results.

Control of Competitions

All Competitions (League/Cup etc) under the control of the Youth Committee shall be governed by the Competitions Management Committee. The Competitions Management Committee shall hear any protest or objection via the normal appeals procedure

Teamsheets

Teamsheets (Appendix A) should be completed for ALL matches. They should arrive at the Branch Office by post, fax or email no later than the Wednesday immediately following the game.

Branch instructions for the submission of team lists (including replacements) to Referees and to the Branch shall be adhered to strictly (see regulations Governing all League and Cup Competitions Section 1 General Regulations 6 Notification of results).

A teamsheet must be given it to the referee before any match can begin.

Pre-Season Registration Forms

Each team wishing to compete in any Ulster Branch Youth Competition must complete and return to the Branch a Pre-Season Registration Form (Appendix B) by the First Wednesday in October. This is the panel of players for the season. Any players joining after submission of Pre-Season Registration Form should be sent in separately (and will be added to your original form).

No player can play UNTIL he is registered with the IRFU.

Registration, Eligibility and Movement of Players

To represent a club, a player must be bone-fide member of that club, must comply with the age regulation and must be registered with the Irish Rugby Football Union (Ulster Branch). A player whose transfer has been completed in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 4.4 of the Club Rugby Regulations after the 1st October in any year will not be eligible to play for his new club in Branch League or Cup Competitions. No player will be able to play until he is registered with the Irish Rugby Football Union.

Age Threshold

The age threshold for a youth player shall be the player's age on the first day of July proceeding the season in which the competition is played.

U18

Any player who is under the age of 18 on 1 July, and who has reached the age of 16 at the time of playing shall be eligible to play U18 level.

U16

Any player who is under the age of 16 on 1 July, and who has reached the age of 14 at the time of playing shall be eligible to play U16 level.

U14

Any player who is under the age of 14 on 1 July, and who has reached the age of 12 at the time of playing shall be eligible to play U14 level.

A player can only play one game within a 72hour period.

A player can play in the Ulster Youth Competitions provided he does not attend a school that participates in the Schools of Ireland Scheme. If a player attends such a school the club must obtain prior permission (using the form attached in Appendix C) for that player to play for the club, and he must not have played in any round of the Ulster Schools Rugby Football Challenge Cup Competition in the current season.

The exceptions are those schools that are participating in the Ulster Branch Youth/Schools Pilot Scheme.

Reinstatement

Where a Club enters two teams in the same age group League or Cup – movement between the two teams will be governed by the principles contained within the current Ulster Branch Reinstatement Regulations (contained in the Ulster Branch Rules, Regulations and General Information Booklet which has been issued to all clubs). Including between age levels (see regulations Governing all League and Cup Competitions Section 1 General Regulations 10 Reinstatements).

Fixtures

The Branch Youth Committee shall decide the playing date for all League and Cup Games. The Competition Management Committee may withdraw from any Cup competition any club, which fails to fulfill a fixture by the date as near as possible to the proscribed date. Games are only to be cancelled in the case of pitches being unplayable or the National/Provincial rule as stated below.

Any Club having two or more players committed to National or Provincial Representative duty within 72 hours prior to a proscribed competition may seek to rearrange with its opponent to a date as near as possible to the proscribed date.

No Match may be postponed or rearranged without the prior permission of the Co-Ordinator. If the ground condition of the 'Home' club prevents a game from being played, the 'Away' club MUST be given the opportunity to host the game on the specified day. Adult Regulations with regard to re-arrangements should apply (see regulations Governing all League and Cup Competitions Section 1 General Regulations 16 Postponement or Cancellation of Matches, 17 Order of Cancellation, 18 Change of Dates, 19 Refusal to Play).

Clubs are to ensure that they liaise with their opponents at least two days before Match Date to ensure that games are still on and teams are traveling.

Referees

The Ulster Society of Rugby Football Referees will provide referees when possible, however, it is the home club's responsibility to organise a referee (Note from 2005-2006 this referee must have attended an Associated Referees Course or be a member of The Ulster Society of Rugby Football Referees). Clubs are encouraged to send suitable person on associate referee course - for use of youth rugby within their own club.

Both teams MUST provide a touch judge, who must not be a replacement or substitute.

IRB Regulations regarding front row replacements should be observed.

Yellow/Red cards are applicable at Under 14, Under 16 and Under 18 level.

Laws of the Game

The Laws of Rugby Union Football, as published by the Irish Rugby Football Union, together with any variations to the laws promulgated by the Irish Rugby Football Union or by the Ulster Branch thereof, shall apply to any competition. It is important to note that there are a number of promulgated variations to the laws applicable to age-pointed Rugby Football. Mainly, these are aimed at safety of the players and it is important that these variations are enforced. The Ulster Branch Youth Committee will provide further information and clarification when requested to do so.

Attention is drawn to the "standard set of variation to the law of the game at under 19 level" appended to the Irish Rugby Football Union publication "Laws of the game". From time to time there can be interpretations of the Laws promulgated by the Irish Rugby Football Union and the Ulster Branch Youth Committee will make every attempt to disseminate these promulgations to Clubs as they appear.

Lineout - There is no lifting or supporting at Under 16 and Under 14 Levels.

Reported Players

The Ulster Branch Disciplinary Sub-Committee will deal with all players reported for breaches of discipline, in compliance with the Regulations contained the Ulster Branch Rules, Regulations and General Information Booklet issued to all club.

Code of Ethics

All persons involved with Youth Rugby must refer to the Irish Rugby Football Union Code of Ethics in Relation to the Ethos of the Game, and "Law Variations for Schools and Youth Rugby" in relation to the Refereeing of the game.

Clubs are reminded that they have signed up to the Code of Ethics

Protests or Appeals

A club wishing to make an official protest or appeal to the Competitions Management Committee in relation to a fixture must do so in writing on Club note paper signed by the Honorary Secretary/Youth Convenor to reach the Branch Office within 96 hours after the end of the match to which it relates.

League Competition Rules - Ulster Under 18, Under 16 and U14 League

The General (Youth) Regulations shall apply.

The League Competition will be divided into a League and Conference.

To compete in the League competition a club must have teams competing at each of the Under 14, Under 16 and Under 18 age levels in the previous season. Teams who do not fit these criteria shall compete in the Conference.

The League shall be divided into a Premier section and a number of regionalized sections. As far as is possible the Conference will be divided into an appropriate number of regional sections.

Two or more Clubs may join together to field a team provided that this is agreed by the Branch Youth Committee at the time of the application for entry into the league. The team name must contain the registered Club name of all the Clubs combining for the competition: No pseudonym team titles will be permitted.

Three League points shall be awarded to the Club winning a match, for a draw each club shall be awarded two points, one point will be awarded to a club for turning up to play. The Competitions Management Committee will deal with non-return of teamsheets. Games will be on a home and away basis.

The Club accumulating the most league points in the season shall be the section winners. If two or more teams have the same league points the corresponding match (s) in the league shall decide. In the event of two or more teams being tied, a playoff will decide the winner. No extra time shall be played in such match (es). In the event of a draw most tries scored will decide, then first try, then first score.

A league game will be valid when played with the minimum players as stated below. Points will be awarded as per a normal game and team lists are returned to the Branch. When one club fields a reduced team, then the opposition must also field the same number of players, but they will be permitted to substitute their remaining players during the game to ensure all players have the opportunity of playing. If a team has less than the minimum number of players then both teams should arrange to play a friendly game i.e. (mix and match) to encourage the boys who have made the effort to turn up and avoid the disappointment of no game. 3 points will be awarded to the full team and 1 point awarded to reduced team

Team size

Fifteen (15) is the norm for all levels (Premier Sections 15 a-side)

- U14 Minimum of 10 a-side (both teams equal)
- U16 Minimum of 12 a-side (both teams equal)
- U18 Minimum of 12 a-side (both teams equal)

Promotion/Relegation

To gain promotion from the Conference to the League a club must prove that they are playing at all three levels (Under 14, Under 16 and Under 18). After completing a season in the conference at all three levels and having provided evidence to show that they can field 3 levels for the following season, a club can apply to the Youth Committee to move up to one of the regional sections.

To move from one of the regional leagues into the Premier Section a club must apply to the Youth Committee. A criteria will be used to assess requests such as have had teams at U14s, U16s and U18s for at least 3 continuous years; have at least 60 players registered on IRFU Registration System and 3 qualified coaches. To move into Premier Section clubs apply to Youth Committee as stated above.

If any club entered in the League fails to field all three levels i.e. Under 14, Under 16 and Under 18 they will be moved to the Conference Section.

U18 and U16 All Ireland Playoff

The winners of Conference section and the winners of each of the Regional leagues will be drawn together to play off by the Youth Committee. The winners will then proceed to play the winners of Premier section. The winners of this match will then be entered, as the Ulster Representatives, into the All Ireland Playoff.

Withdrawing From the League

Any Club that does not enter the league or withdraws will become ineligible to enter the Cup or Plate, other than in exceptional circumstances. Such applications should be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary of the Youth Committee.

Ulster Under 18 (CE Bowman) Cup

The General Competition Regulations shall apply.

All games shall be of 70 minutes duration. No extra time shall be played. If after 70 minutes play there is a drawn result, a replay shall be arranged on the visiting opponent's ground. If the replay results in a further draw, most tries scored in the replayed game will decide (then 1st try, 1st score). Should the match be scoreless the winner will be the away team.

If the final remains drawn after 70 minutes play the Cup shall be shared.

A squad of 22 for each game should be nominated.

Ulster Under 18 (Mildred Holland) Plate

The General Competition Regulations and the CE Bowman Cup Competition rules shall apply.

Only teams losing preliminary Round or First Round match of the CE Bowman Cup shall be eligible to be entered for the Mildred Holland Plate Competition unless there is a request by a club for the entry to be withdrawn.

Ulster Under 16 (RB Fleming) Cup

The General Competition Regulations shall apply.

All games shall be of 60 minutes duration. No extra time shall be played. If after 60 minutes play there is a drawn result, a replay shall be arranged on the visiting opponent's ground. If the replay results in a further draw, most tries scored in the replayed game will decide (then 1st try, 1st score). Should the match be scoreless the winner will be the away team.

If the final remains drawn after 60 minutes play the Cup shall be shared.

A squad of 22 for each game should be nominated.

Ulster Under 16 Plate

The General Competition Regulations and the RB Fleming Cup Competition rules shall apply.

Only teams losing Preliminary Round or First Round match of the RB Fleming Cup shall be eligible to be entered for the Plate Competition unless there is a request by a club for the entry to be withdrawn.

Ulster Under 14 Cup

The General Competition Regulations and Ulster under14 League Rules shall apply.

All games shall be of 50 minutes duration. No extra time shall be played. If after 50 minutes play there is a drawn result, a replay shall be arranged on the visiting opponent's ground. If the replay results in a further draw, most tries scored in the replayed game will decide (then 1st try, 1st score). Should the match be scoreless the winner will be the away team.

If the final remains drawn after 50 minutes play the Cup shall be shared.

A squad of 22 for each game should be nominated.

Ulster Under 14 Plate

The General Competition and the Ulster Under 14 Cup Competition Regulations shall apply.

Only teams losing Preliminary Round or First Round match of the U14 Cup shall be eligible to be entered for the Plate Competition unless there is a request by a club for the entry to be withdrawn.

Inserted in Red Book Page 12 after (vi)

U18s, U16s and U14s Players nominated 22 - Subs or Replacement 7 players.

A referee, at his discretion, may abandon a game -which may have to be replayed- if he is satisfied that there is an undue disparity in height or weight between opponents; which cannot be rectified by the use of substitutions.

Insert in Red Book Page 9

d) The Branch Youth Committee shall decide the playing date for all Youth League and Cup Games. Competition Management Committee shall decide on any disputes in regard to the date on which any match shall be played.

Insert in Red Book page 9

Section 3

c) Playing time

U14 - two 25-minute halves (Injury time may be played but no extra time allowed)

U16 - two 30-minute halves (Injury time may be played but no extra time allowed)

U18 - two 35-minute halves (Injury time may be played but no extra time allowed)

Insert in Red Book Page 13

c) Normal Kick-off time for all youth matches whether League, Cup or Friendly will be 11.00am.

Insert in Red Book Page 19

42 Ulster Under 18 (CE Bowman) Cup

(a). The cup shall be called "The CE Bowman Under 18 Cup"

(b). The cup shall be competed for annually and shall be open to teams participating in the Under 18 League.

43 Ulster Under 18 (Mildred Holland) Plate

(a). The trophy shall be called "The Mildred Holland Under 18 Plate"

(b). The trophy shall be played for annually and shall be open to teams defeated in the 1st Round of the CE Bowman Cup.

44 Ulster Under 16 (RB Fleming) Cup

(a). The cup shall be called "The RB Fleming Under 16 Cup"

(b). The cup shall be competed for annually and shall be open to teams participating in the Under 16 League.

45 Ulster Under 16 (name) Plate

(a). The trophy shall be called the "Ulster Under 16 Plate"

(b). The trophy shall be played for annually and shall be open to teams defeated in the 1st Round of the RB Fleming Cup.

46 Ulster Under 14 (name) Cup

(a). The cup shall be called "The Ulster U14 Cup"

(b). The cup shall be competed for annually and shall be open to teams participating in the Under 14 League.

45 Ulster Under 14(name) Plate

(a). The trophy shall be called the "Ulster Under 14 Plate"

(b). The trophy shall be played for annually and shall be open to teams defeated in the 1st Round of the Ulster U14 Cup.

46 Armagh U14 and U16 Tournament

(a). The Cups shall be called the " the Armagh U14 Tournament" and "The Armagh U16 Tournament"

(b). The Cups shall be played for annually and shall be open to teams participating the U14 AND U16 Leagues). With the proviso that a clubs must bring both U14 and U16.