

EASTERN COUNTIES RUGBY UNION



President – Norman Potter

URGENT - PLEASE PASS ON to the U17's and U19's MANAGER

Dear Youth Chairman

Re: U17's and U19's Cup and Shield Competitions 2007 – 2008

My apologies for the late issue of this document but you will see that, following extensive discussions at CBRDP 12-18 Group meetings and with individuals from EC Clubs over the last two seasons, we have made major revisions to the above competitions for which we are now inviting entries on the enclosed form.

I hope that you will find these changes helpful and that the changes *you* asked for have been introduced; however, for obvious reasons, it has not been possible to incorporate everybody's wishes in the new set up.

The main changes are as follows and are fully described in the updated rules which are enclosed with this letter. Please take the time to read the rules and raise any questions before the competitions start. If you require any clarification please do talk to me. Please note that these will be the definitive rules for the coming season and replace any previous editions.

Some of the changes have been made on an experimental basis and will be reviewed at the end of the season to decide whether or not they have worked in practice. If you have any constructive comments during the season please e-mail them to me and they will be noted and considered at the end of the season.

MAIN CHANGES:

- **The introduction, on an experimental basis, of two new competitions. The EC U17 and U19 Shields.**

Introduced in response to clubs who were deterred from entering the Cup competitions by the perceived strength of the opposition or who suffered through persistently conceding large scores.

The new competitions should allow all clubs within the CB to enter a meaningful competition at a level that will be appropriate for them.

- **The opportunity for two clubs to combine to form a team in order to enter the Shield competition at one or both age groups.**

This is again intended to allow smaller clubs or those who have suffered significant drop out at senior youth level to continue to offer the opportunity to their players to play in a meaningful youth competition. Players who are members of a combined team will retain registration and membership of their own club and may, of course, play at senior level for that club.

Telephone 01449 614674

- **The introduction of 'seeding'**

In response to clubs who were unhappy over the composition of mini leagues which had previously been determined by chance. In future seeding will be undertaken by the three sub-counties youth chairmen and the Competition Organiser,

- **The introduction of rolling substitutions and a 50 point maximum score difference**
This brings the EC competitions in line with other youth competitions such as the Daily Mail Cup.

- **Re-writing and expansion of the rules to avoid confusion during the currency of the competition.**

There are a number of other changes and administrative clarifications to the rules so please make sure that you read them. For your convenience, I have tried to italicise major changes.

One of the major issues arising from last season's competitions was the failure of teams to fulfil their fixtures. I hope that the changes we have made will help to alleviate this problem but we are again setting a late deadline of **1st September** for entry in order to allow clubs to assess their playing strength at each age group although we would encourage you to send us a provisional entry as soon as possible. All provisional entrants will be asked to confirm their entries prior to 1st September.

Please be realistic about your prospects of completing fixtures and, if necessary, consider the new combination option or entering just a Colts team using U17's (Be aware of the front row regulations however), U18's and U19's to make up a full squad. *Our experience is that you need a squad of at least 25 to ensure that you can fulfil your fixtures.*

Competition Dates As per the Structured Season

| U17's | | | U19's | | |
|--------------------|--------|----------|--------------|--------|----------|
| | Sunday | 07.10.07 | | Sunday | 09.12.07 |
| | Sunday | 21.10.07 | | Sunday | 06.01.08 |
| | Sunday | 11.11.07 | | Sunday | 13.01.08 |
| | Sunday | 25.11.07 | | | |
| Quarter Fin | | | | Sunday | 03.02.08 |
| Semi Final | Sunday | 13.01.08 | | Sunday | 09.03.08 |
| Final | Sunday | 03.02.08 | | Sunday | 30.03.08 |

As per the Rules and previous practice, other required dates to be mutually agreed between the respective clubs.

Above all, in my view, although it may be satisfying to win silverware, the whole point of these competitions is to keep as many youths as possible playing and enjoying the game on a Sunday and I hope the competitions are approached in that spirit.

Yours sincerely
for Eastern Counties

John Mackay
EC Youth Competition Organiser
John.mackay@btinternet.com

Mob:07775 873040

Telephone 01449 614674

EASTERN COUNTIES RUGBY UNION



President – Norman Potter

PLEASE RETURN TO:
*Lisa Greetham ECRU Howard's Office Tomo Industrial Estate
Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 5AY*
Tel: 01449 614674
lisagreetham@btconnect.com

Dear Lisa

Re: U17's and U19's Cup and Plate Competition 2007/8

Please enter our club.(Club Name) into the EC Youth competition(s) as detailed below. We have read and agree to abide by the rules for these competitions.

Signed:

Name (Print) Tel No
(Youth Chairman or Manager/s)

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

U19's YES/ NO CUP OR SHIELD (please circle)

U19 Contact Name* Tel. No.

e-mail address

Address.....

Post Code

U17's YES/ NO CUP OR SHIELD (please circle)

U17 Contact Name* Tel.No.

e-mail address

Address

Post Code

COMBINATION: If you are considering combining with another club to enter the Shield competition, please indicate here (YES/NO U17 / U19) and you will be contacted by the Organiser.

*The contacts given for each age group will be the only people contacted with regard to these Competitions

Telephone 01449 614674