

EASTERN COUNTIES CUP FOR THE DAVID ROBINSON TROPHY RULES OF THE COMPETITION

1. INTRODUCTION

These Rules are the Rules of the Eastern Counties Cup and are referred to as “The Competition”. Every reference by Clubs to the matches in the Competition shall include the full title of the Competition as above and also include the name of any current sponsor. Clubs are expected to honour their sponsorship obligations to the fullest extent possible.

2. The Competition shall be controlled by the Management Committee which shall delegate the ECRU Competitions Committee to organise the Competition. This Committee shall have the full powers to deal with all disputes and transgressions, including the power to disqualify any participating Club which may infringe any rules of the Competition.

3. All matches shall be played in accordance with the laws, bye-laws and resolutions of the Rugby Football Union.

4. The Competition shall be restricted to FOUR Clubs in full membership of both the Eastern Counties Rugby Union and the Rugby Football Union.

5. The FOUR Clubs will qualify as follows:

- a. The current Eastern Counties Cup Holder
- b. The three cup winners from Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk from the current season.
- c. In the event of the current cup holder being the winner of their Sub County Cup the Committee will fill the vacancy by inviting the highest placed league club from the previous season.
- d. In the event of a Club not wishing to accept the invitation to participate the Committee shall invite the next eligible club(s) until the position is confirmed.

6. Any Club whose First Fifteen plays in the National Leagues will only enter a Second Fifteen into the Eastern Counties Cup. However, First XV Players that have either benched or played for their First Fifteen in League or Cup matches for no more than **twelve** times in that current season will be allowed to participate in the Competition. **Front row forwards will be eligible to play regardless of the number of times they have played or benched for their First XV in that current season.**

7. The draw for the first round will be made at the Eastern Counties AGM together with the draw for the venue of the Cup Final.

8. The FOUR participating Clubs will be invited, in writing, to enter the Competition and acceptance of the invitation will constitute acceptance of the Competition Regulations.

9. The winners of the final will receive the David Robinson Trophy to be held for one year.

10. The dates for each round will be determined at the commencement of each season and all matches must be played on the appointed dates. No variation shall be permitted.

11. Players

A Club in a Competition match may only play, or select as a replacement, players who hold EFFECTIVE registration for the club in accordance with the current “English Club Championship” regulations.

NOTE: A seventeen year old may play in this Competition, as set out by the “English Club Championship”, as long as he either as a player or replacement does NOT play in the front row.

Penalty: Any infringement of these regulations will result in the disqualification from the Competition for that season, of the player and the Club involved. The Committee shall have the power to re-instate a Club in the Competition when it has been eliminated by a Club which has been in breach of this Regulation. That power shall

cease to apply upon the day before a further round of the Competition immediately following that in which the breach was committed is scheduled to be played.

12. The maximum number of players who can be in attendance shall be the decision of the Eastern Counties Competition Committee in accordance with the laws and resolutions of the Rugby Football Union.

13. Drawn Matches

- a. In all rounds, except the final, if after 40 minutes of play each way, the scores are level, there shall be an immediate period of replay between the same teams of 10 minutes each way, with a one minute interval. If the scores are then still equal, the team that has scored the most tries shall go forward to the next round. If this does not produce a result, the team that has scored the most goals from tries goes forward into the next round. If the scores still be equal, the tries still be equal and the goals from tries still be equal, the visiting team shall go forward into the next round.
- b. In the Final, if after 40 minutes play each way the scores are level, there shall be an immediate period of replay between the same teams of 10 minutes each way, with a one minute interval. If no result is then achieved the match shall be adjudged a draw. The Trophy will be shared and both Clubs awarded a plaque.
- c. In the event of a draw in the Final, entry to the RFU Senior Cup may be determined under rule 12(a).

14. Referees and Touch Judges for all matches in the Competition shall be appointed by the Eastern Counties Referee's Federation.

15. In the event of the Clubs having similar or clashing colours the home team will be responsible for changing its colours. The Referee's decision on the suitability of colours shall be final.

16. The home Club is responsible for the proper promotion of the match, this includes correctly and clearly marking the pitch and providing barriers to ensure spectators are kept a reasonable distance from the field of play.

17. Except for the Final, all money, including money charged for admission to stands and enclosures, revenue from sale of programmes and car parking, taken or otherwise collected from spectators at each match (bar and catering takings excepted) shall be divided equally between the clubs taking part in the match provided however, that the home Club may deduct their costs of printing tickets and programmes, but save as aforesaid no other deductions shall be made. The home Club shall within 14 days of each match send to the visiting club (with a copy to the Hon. Competitions Secretary) an account of the said monies together with a remittance in respect of the amount due to the visiting Club.

18. Any club which fails to play a game on the nominated day or days shall be withdrawn from the current Competition **and the following season's Eastern Counties Cup Competition** and **also** will not be eligible for selection or nomination to enter the Rugby Union National and or Senior Cup. **Any** club who has declined the invitation to play in the Eastern Counties Cup will not be selected or nominated to enter the Rugby Union National and or Senior Cup **and or the following season's Eastern Counties Cup Competition**

19. Any sub-County that does not complete its own Cup Competition prior to the start of this Competition shall cause its Clubs to be excluded from consideration for the Rugby Union National Cup Competition for the following season, unless the Club qualifies by virtue of their League status.

RED = New Rules for this Years Cup 2007-2008