



Rules of the Competitions

1. The Competitions shall be called The (Sponsor) John Burgess Lancashire Rugby Football Union Cup, The (Sponsor) Brian Leigh Lancashire Rugby Football Union Trophy, The (Sponsor) Lancashire Rugby Football Union Plate and The (Sponsor) Alan Stone Lancashire Rugby Football Union Bowl.
2. Entry will be for all clubs affiliated to the County Union, having fully paid up membership, whose application is received by the Secretary of the Competitions Committee by 1st April. The entrance fees are currently; Cup - £50.00, Trophy - £50.00, Plate - £30.00, Bowl - £30.00. However, these may be revised by the Cup and Competitions Committee for each new season and notified to the participating clubs accordingly.
3. The competitions shall be on a knock-out basis. Clubs will be seeded at the discretion of the Competitions Committee and will be notified accordingly.

4. Player Membership Rules

Clubs using the Game Management System

1. The player must be registered on GMS and cleared to play prior to the first match in the current season's competition.
2. If a player joins a club once the competition has started the following conditions will apply.
 - a. The GMS registration must be completed prior to the GMS transfer deadline date.
 - b. The player must not have played in any Lancashire Cup Competition at any level

Clubs not using the Game Management System

1. A full player list must be submitted to the Competitions Secretary prior to the first match being played.
2. If a player joins a club once the competition has started the following conditions will apply.
 - a. The name, date of birth and RFU ID (if applicable) must be sent to the Completions Secretary prior to the relevant match and confirmation received that the player is cleared to play. This will only be allowed prior to the GMS deadline date.
 - b. The player must not have played in any Lancashire Cup Competition at any level

In the event of any dispute the Competitions Committee shall be the final arbiter.

5. A player must be a bona fide member of a club to play in the competitions. No player may represent more than one Club during the period of the competitions. Any infringement of this ruling will result in disqualification from the competitions for that season of the player and the Club involved.
6. All matches up to and including the semi-final shall be played on the ground of the first drawn club except by special permission of the Competitions Committee.

- a) Artificial pitches may be used but only if the pitch meets (i) the IRB Artificial Rugby Turf Performance Specification, (ii) the requirements of Regulation 22 and Appendix 1 of the IRB Regulations, (iii) Law 1 of the Laws of the Game and (iv) permission has been granted by the RFU to use the pitch for competitive matches, provided that such permission has not expired or been invalidated. Furthermore, the Club wishing to use the pitch must give at least 14 days written notice of their intention to do so to their opponents. However, if the giving of such written notice is impossible because the next round of the competition follows the previous round within 14 days, the written notice must be given within 12 hours of the draw being notified to the Clubs.
 - b) A draw for each subsequent round will be made on the completion of the proceeding round.
 - c) The Finals to be played on a ground nominated by the Competitions Committee.
7. All matches shall be played as normal Club home fixtures with the exception of the Semi Finals and Finals when arrangements will be laid down by the Competitions Committee.

8. In all matches in the competitions, a maximum of five replacements are permitted, one of whom must be able to play in the front row. All replacements may be interchanged (rolling subs) during the course of a game up to a maximum of ten times. All replacements must be identified in full playing kit, to the match official(s) 30 minutes before the kick-off.
9.
 - (a) All matches shall be played under the Laws of the Rugby Football Union and refereed by a member of one of the Referees' Society within the County. Application for the Referees must be made through the appropriate Society.
 - (b) The host Club must give at least six days' notice to the Referees Society for the match officials to be arranged otherwise there is no guarantee of obtaining match officials.
 - (c) The host Club shall be responsible for paying the travelling expenses of the match officials in all matches.
 - (d) Clubs can play a Competition match on any day prior to the appointed date provided that their opponents are agreeable. Should there be any disagreement; the match should be played on the date stipulated by the Competitions Committee.
 - (e) In the event of a Club being unable to play a tie on the designated date, the Committee shall have the power to award the tie to their opponents.
 - (f) In the event of inclement weather conditions or a ground being unfit for play, the scheduled host Club should explore the possibility of playing the game at the away venue or on a neutral ground on the appropriate date. If this is not possible, the game must be played within seven days or on a date to be specified by the Competitions Committee. In the event of both Captains not agreeing to the conditions of the ground, the final decision will be made by the referee. NB if the game is switched to the away venue, the status of each team is reversed accordingly. In the case of a neutral venue, the original away side retain that status.
 - (g) Should there be any abandonment of the match due to inclement weather, the score at the time of the abandonment shall stand provided that 60 minutes playing time has been completed otherwise the tie will be replayed.
 - (h) If the referee finds it necessary to abandon the match for any reason other than the weather conditions, then, irrespective of the number of minutes played, the result of that match may be determined by the Competitions Committee. Alternatively the Competitions Committee may order the match to be replayed.
10. Players in representative matches where a game involving either the Senior Lancashire XV, or the Lancashire Under 20 XV (or above) is to be played on the date of a Lancashire Competitions match, any Club which is affected by three or more players or replacements taking part in such a representative match, may require the Competitions match to be re-arranged for a later date. The dates of such re-arranged matches will be decided by the Competitions Committee.
10. In the event of a draw at no side:
 - (a) Ties up to and including the Semi Finals
The winners will be decided by the team which has scored the most tries. If still undecided, then by the team which has scored most goals from tries. If still undecided, the visiting team shall be declared the winners.

- (b) Final ties: Extra time of ten minutes each way shall be played, the choice of ends to be decided by the toss of a coin. In the event of the scores still being equal at the conclusion of extra time, the winners shall be decided by the team which has scored the most tries during the 100 minutes playing time. If still undecided, then by the team which has scored the most goals from tries. If no result can be declared from the foregoing, the teams shall be declared joint winners, but to decide any National Cup seeding a further match shall be played before the start of the subsequent season, the choice of venue to be decided by the toss of a coin.

11. In the event of a colour clash, the home team shall change. In the finals of the Lancashire Plate, Trophy and Cup, the Clubs shall toss a coin to decide.

12. Notification of Results:

It is the responsibility of the home Club to telephone the result to the nominated member of the Cup and Competitions Committee for their respective competition within 2 hours of the end of the match.

13. It is the responsibility of the host club to ensure an effective separation of spectators from the playing area.

14. The Competitions Committee shall maintain a database of all other competitions or festivals held by member clubs of the County in which senior teams are participating.

15. The Competitions Committee shall be the sole interpreters of these rules and from their decision there shall be no appeal at law or otherwise.