

Staffordshire Cup Competition Regulations 2018-19

Please ensure that your club is aware that matches are played under the national game regulations (which can be found at www.englandrugby.com and also in the Rugby Football Union Handbook), unless otherwise specified below. Rolling substitutions will be permitted in accordance with the Midlands Division Regulations. The Staffordshire Referee-Club Protocol also applies to all cup competitions and clubs and coaches should ensure that it is implemented.

Games up to the final will be played under league regulations (3 replacements and a maximum of 8 interchanges) for the Senior, Intermediate and Owen Cups; the Midlands league regulation allowing up to five replacements at Level 9 and below will **not** apply. In the Rubery Owen Cup, up to five replacements and a maximum of ten interchanges will be allowed. In all competitions, the maximum number of interchanges is permitted, even if a team does not have a full complement of replacements. Details of the Colts competition will be sent out separately but seven replacements will be allowed with unlimited interchanges.

Playing squads must contain at least four players (five in Colts cup) capable of playing in the front row. Up to, and including the semi final, games ending in a draw after 80 minutes playing time (70 minutes for colts) will count as a win for the side which has scored more tries or, if level on tries, more conversions. If both teams have an equal number of tries and conversions, the away team will be awarded the leg and progress to the next round.

Match cards are provided (downloadable from www.srusr.co.uk or www.staffsrfu.com/county-cups) and must be completed, signed and returned in accordance with the instructions on the card.

In all finals, clubs may nominate up to 7 replacements and must have at least 5 front row players in the squad. The maximum number of interchanges in the adult competitions is 12. Except in the Colts Final, should the results be tied at the end of full time the cup winner will be decided as follows: -

- 1) Extra Time – 10 minutes each way. The maximum of 12 interchanges includes extra time.
- 2) Number of tries scored
- 3) Number of conversions
- 4) Should results still be tied the winner will be decided by a kicking competition as defined in RFU regulations.

For the Colts competition, the trophy will be shared.

Semi final (first round) matches in the Senior Cup must be played on February 2nd, or earlier by agreement. The date of the final will be circulated once it has been confirmed. In the Intermediate and Owen Cups, the preliminary round (Owen Cup only) is to be played in September, if possible, or on the first available Saturday designated for Midlands Cups (but in any event no later than the end of December), the first round on January 19th and the semi finals on February 23rd (earlier by agreement). In the Rubery Owen Cup, the semi finals (first round) will be played on a home and away basis by February 23rd. Finals (President's Day) will be on May 5th. It is the responsibility of the home team to approach their opponents and agree a date, and also to keep the Chairman of the Competitions Committee/Appointments Secretary of the Referees Society informed of arrangements and potential difficulties at an early stage. Matches must be played by the designated date. Teams meeting in league matches can agree to nominate that game as a double header, with prior agreement from the Staffordshire Competitions Committee. Approval from the league secretary must be sought if this involves switching venues for league matches. In the event of a double header where league and cup regulations specify a different number of replacements, clubs must agree in advance to accept the lower number for that match.

Bad weather or an unavoidable backlog of league/Midlands cup matches is considered the only valid reason for postponement or an extension of the play-by date. In these circumstances, and should the replay be scheduled for mid week, the host club may have to forego home advantage if they do not have match quality lights. In the event of clubs being unable to agree on a date, the Competitions Committee, on behalf of the SRU, will make the final decision, binding on both clubs.

Players are considered "Cup Tied" if they have played at first team level during the season 2018-2019 for any other Staffordshire club that is participating in any Staffordshire Cup. All players must be registered as current club members on the RFU Game Management System database, and those playing for clubs taking part in the Senior and Intermediate Cups must be registered first team players.