**Staffordshire Cup Competition Regulations 2023-2024**

**Please ensure that your club is aware that, unless specified otherwise, matches are played under national game regulations and specifically the RFU KO Competitions Regulations and the Midlands Region Administrative Instructions (see the exception below re replacements). 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); the Midlands league regulation allowing up to five replacements at Level 9 and below will **not** apply. 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.

Electronic Match Cards (EMC) will be available and should be completed for all games. Should a club be unable to access the EMC, match cards can be downloaded from [www.srusr.co.uk](http://www.srusr.co.uk) or [www.staffsrfu.com/county-cups](http://www.staffsrfu.com/county-cups) to be completed, signed and returned in accordance with the instructions on the card. Sanctions may be imposed on any club which fails to comply with this regulation.

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 - see 5) below -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.

5) For the Colts competition, the trophy will be shared.

In the Senior Cup, the preliminary round is to be played on October 8th (or earlier, by agreement) and the semi finals on February 4th or earlier. In the Intermediate Cup, the same dates apply - first round on or before October 8th and the semi finals on or before February 4th. In the Owen Cup, the first round should be played on or before October 8th, and the second round (quarter finals) on or before November 19th. Semi finals will be played on or before February 4th. 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, league regulations will apply. The date of all Finals will be confirmed and circulated as soon as possible but will depend on clubs’ involvement in the RFU National Cups.

Bad weather or an unavoidable backlog of 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 2022-2023 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.

SRU Competitions Committee, August 2023