 ARMY RUGBY UNION

**Chairman**

**Lieutenant General J Swift OBE**

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See Distribution 26 Apr 22

**ARU INVITATIONAL 7S 2022 ADMINISTRATION INSTRUCTION – SAT 25 JUN 22**

**Introduction**

1. On behalf of the President and Chairman of Army Rugby it is with great pleasure to invite all Corps and selected civilian clubs to compete in the ARU Armed Forces Day 7s competition on Sat 25 Jun 2022. This event will be delivered concurrently to the GB Super Series in Aldershot, utilising Queens Ave pitches.
2. ARU7s have been highly successful on the sevens circuits, both domestic and international, and are often regarded as *‘the team to beat’*. With the increased professionalism of Sevens Rugby, and its’ continued development worldwide, this high status is ever more difficult to maintain. With this in mind Sevens will be grown at unit level with an aspiration of feeding players into Corps and Army teams. This will only be achieved with the continued support and commitment of both players and management and the support of their Chain of Command (CoC).
3. Service representative sport, and especially Army Rugby Union, continues to influence the public opinion of the Armed Forces and maintain public support. Furthermore, Service representative sport continues to support the efforts towards recruitment and retention, actively demonstrating to serving personnel and potential recruits, elements of ‘The Offer’ associated with joining the Armed Forces.
4. **Aim.** The aim of this letter is to:
5. Notify participating teams and their immediate Chain of Command;
6. Communicate the administrative details for the tournament;
7. Serve as the authority for claims against Representative Sports travel in accordance with current regulations[[1]](#footnote-1) as set by the Army Sports Control Board (ASCB).

**Competition Structure**

1. The competition and team format will closely align with World Rugby formats and laws:
	1. **Tournament Format**. The tournament will feature a round robin pool phase, the number of pools will rely on number of teams. This will lead to a knockout stage based on the final pool positions. Teams will be playing towards a Cup and Trophy Final.
	2. **Pool Play**. The aspiration is to have both male and female pools leading to the knockout phase.
		1. **Male**. The aim is to have 12 Corps teams and 4 Civilian teams competing in 4 pools of 4 teams. The Corps teams will be split between the pools with 1 team per Merit table (based on standings following Corps finals 21/22 season) in each pool with a civilian club. There will be a blind draw to form each pool.
		2. **Female**. The 2021 tournament featured 3 female teams who competed in a round robin leading to a Cup final. In 2022 we would like to see this number grow to at least 8 teams, creating 2 pools of 4 and running similar to the male format. Corps teams are invited to enter mixed teams if needed, but the hope is to have 5 Corps teams inviting 3 Civilian clubs.
	3. **Team Composition**. Each squad will be permitted to have 13 players. 12 players will make up the main playing squad which must remain the same for each game. The 13th person will be a travelling reserve, only playing if there is a major injury to a player who can take no further part.

**Administration**

1. **Affiliation**. All military teams wishing to take part must have in date affiliation with the ARU, this will provide insurance cover. All civilian teams must be correctly affiliated with their CBs and the RFU to make sure all players are insured.
2. **Pitch Allocation**. It is the intent of the ARU to play all pool matches on Queens Avenue and stage the Cup and Trophy Finals in the Army Rugby Stadium.
3. **Lunch**. The ARU have kindly provided lunch for teams and match officials. More details will be given on the day.
4. **Parking**. For the Armed Forces Invitational 7s will be on the Waldham Theatre car park only. A map will be provided to show its location.
5. **Medical**. In accordance with the event RA Paramedic support will be available throughout the day. All teams are strongly encouraged to have Pitch Side First Aid/Physio in the event of a minor injury. HIA will not be conducted pitchside; if a referee deems that a player is unable to continue, that player will be removed and will play no further part in the competition.
6. **Travel**. The ASCB has authorised military travel to be claimed against **POT 16**, Corps must use unit UIN when booking all transport.
7. **Accommodation**. It is individual Corps responsibility to book accommodation if needed. Central bookings are to be contacted to confirm availability.
8. **Discipline**.
	1. **Officials**. ARURS are requested to allocate officials for each tournament.
	2. **Discipline Matters**. The competition will come under RFU Regulation 19 for all discipline matters. All cases will be dealt with on the day by a panel at the competition. In attendance will be Maj M Wray – Discipline Secretary, Capt Jules Simpson (Chairwoman) with 2 other panel members sitting with her. Suspensions will be given in matches (not weeks). Appeals will not be heard on the day as these will be heard by the RFU Discipline Department. No personnel are permitted to play until the conclusion of their hearing. RFU sanction table can be found at this [LINK](https://www.englandrugby.com/dxdam/e2/e2574ff9-fea3-4114-bba8-ca78694a05ea/Regulation%2019%20Appendix%202.pdf).
9. **Presentations**. Prize giving for each final will take place immediately after the Cup Final. Teams not participating by this stage are asked to stay and support the finals this will cap off a competitive day. Finalists are to remain on the pitch to be positioned for the prize giving straight after the final whistle.
10. **Timings**. A more detailed programme for the days events will be produced and available to all teams, however the initial timings are:
	1. 0830hrs - Capt/Team and Officials brief;
	2. 0900hrs - Kick off for first fixtures;
	3. 1300hrs - Lunch;
	4. 1730hrs - Presentations.
11. **Publicity**. The ARU manages well supported social media channels, there will be someone posting throughout the day. Civilian clubs are welcome to follow the ARU and share any content.

**Command and Control**

1. ARU Points of Contact on day of competition:

* 1. **ARU Community Director (ARU Lead)** Maj Marc Wilding
	2. **ARU Community Chair 7s (Competition Lead)**  Capt (Tfc) Jeff Howard

**Summary**

1. The aspiration is to grow the Armed Forces Day Invitational 7s into a well supported event which will attract teams from all over the UK. All teams participating are thanked for their support so far and welcomed back next year.

*(Original Signed)*

J A Howard

Capt (Tfc)

Chairman ARU Community 7s

Annex:

1. Team Declaration Form
2. RFU Reg 19 Appendix 2 (sanction table)

**TEAM DECLARATION FORM**

**All units are reminded that this form is to be completed for each team and handed in at the team captains’ briefing.**

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| **Team Name:**  |   | **Team Capt:**  |   |
| **Team Coach:**  |   | **Team Medic:**  |   |

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| **Player**   | **Name**   | **Rank**   | **Service Number**   | **Service / Cap Badge** **(if not Parent Unit)**  |
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1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)