

ARMY RUGBY UNION

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**Chairman Community 7s:**

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*‘Professional in every way – on the battlefield and on the rugby field; for the Army, our unit and sport. Striving for excellence and success in all that we do’*

**ARMY RUGBY UNION COMMUNITY SEVENS 2023 ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION**

**Introduction**

1. On behalf of the President and Chairman of the Army Rugby Union (ARU), it is with great pleasurethat all Army units have been invited to compete in the ARU Community 7s 2023 competition.
2. The ARU Community Sevens 2023 season is an opportunity to build on success from last year and provide further outlets for soldiers to play sport. 2023 will incorporate 4 tournaments, 3 qualifying rounds with a Finals Day; North (York), Midlands (Stafford) and South (Tidworth), culminating in a Finals day at Newbury RUFC. Future seasons will see an increase in tournaments, hopefully bringing with it an increase in the number of teams participating. This offer is open to both male and female teams.
3. 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).
4. 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.
5. **Aim.** The aim of this letter is to:
   1. Notify participating teams and their immediate Chain of Command of all regional details.
   2. Communicate the administrative details for the tournament.
   3. 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).
6. **Participation**. Unit POCs are to use the QR code within this AI to record interest to compete in a specific regional leg. It will be first come first served due to limited facilities. Some units may be asked to travel to an alternate leg.

**Co-ordinating Instructions**

1. **Location**. The location for each of the tournaments, including the Finals;
   1. **North**. York RI RFC, New Lane, York, YO24 4NT (14 Jun);
   2. **Midlands**. MOD Stafford, ST18 0AQ (12 Jul);
   3. **South**. Tidworth/Bulford, Arcot Road Pitches (28 Jun);
   4. **Finals**. Newbury RUFC, Monks Lane, Newbury, RG14 7RW (26 Jul)
2. **Pitches**. Due to limited playing fields in Stafford and Bulford these two tournaments can only host 8 teams. York and Newbury will be able to host up to 16 teams.
3. **Reporting.** All participating teams are to report to the relevant location for a team brief at 0830 hrs. Matches will begin promptly after all administration is complete. All teams are to arrive with Annex A completed.
4. Officials are requested to report NLT 0820 hrs for an Officials brief.
5. **Travel**. This letter provides the necessary authority for travel. Travel at public expense is authorised for all competing teams and travel should be charged against POT 16 as approved by HQ Army Sport Control Board.
6. **Facilities**. Teams will be responsible for providing any shelter needed. Toilets will be available.
7. **Feeding.** Teams will be responsible for providing nutrition for the event.
8. **Medical**. Each team is strongly encouraged to bring a Pitch Side First Aid trained individual. It may not be possible for the ARU to provide medical support at every event.
9. **ARU Affiliation and insurance**. ARU byelaws stipulate that it is mandatory for all rugby teams to be affiliated to the ARU to be covered by the RFU insurance scheme for death and total disability. Non-affiliated teams will not be permitted to play. All information can be found at; [Army Rugby Union](https://www.armyrugbyunion.org.uk/game-admin/insurance/).
10. **Team Composition**. Teams will consist of a maximum of 12 squad players per match, with a 13th player who is a travelling reserve in the event a player is injured and unable to continue. Substitutions will be discussed on the day of competition. If a unit enters more than one team, then players must remain with the team squad that is declared at the start of the day. In the event of many teams arriving with an excess of players, the event organiser reserves the right to form a *hors-concours* team to bolster the number of teams in the tournament. All front row players must be at least 18 years old (unit coaches are responsible for ensuring this). The event organiser will stipulate the conditions for uncontested scrums during the Team Captains brief.
11. **Tournament Format**. The aspiration is for pool matches to be played, followed by a knock out stage concluding with the winning of silverware. The final number of participating teams will dictate pool play.
12. **Female Teams**. Units are strongly encouraged to also enter female teams into the tournament. If however units cannot field a full side but have females who would like to play, they are encourage to make contact with the event organiser.
13. **Discipline**. If a player receives a red card at any point they will no longer take part in the remainder of the tournament. Their team will then have its match squad reduced accordingly for the remaining matches. Teams are reminded discipline is a core value of Rugby, therefore there will be zero tolerance for any ill-discipline. Officials will be respected throughout the tournament. There will be ARU discipline representation at the event.
14. **Dress**. Teams are to wear unit rugby strips and if available bring a change strip with them. T-shirts are not acceptable and playing attire should be of a robust nature, suitable for contact sport. Boots and any other player support clothing (head guards, shoulder pads) must be worn in line with current RFU policy[[2]](#footnote-2) (moulded studs / blades are acceptable).
15. **Hospitality.** Commanding Officers, Unit Rugby Officers and spectators are welcome to attend these events in support of their players.

**Conclusion**

1. Unit level rugby (ARU community rugby) has struggled over the last few seasons, especially in the 15s competitions as commitments across the Army only continue to increase. The Community 7s offer is hoped to provide more opportunities for rugby players in the off season. However, this event can only be a continued success if teams and players turn-out on the day. To that end, I implore units and rugby officers to field a squad or travel with as many players as they can to the competition. If people want to play rugby, we will facilitate that on the day. If units have any queries or concerns surrounding the event, please contact the undersigned in the first instance.

**Jeff Howard**

JA Howard

Capt (Tfc)

Chairman Army Community Sevens

Annex:

A. Team Declaration Form

Distribution:

Unit Rugby Officers

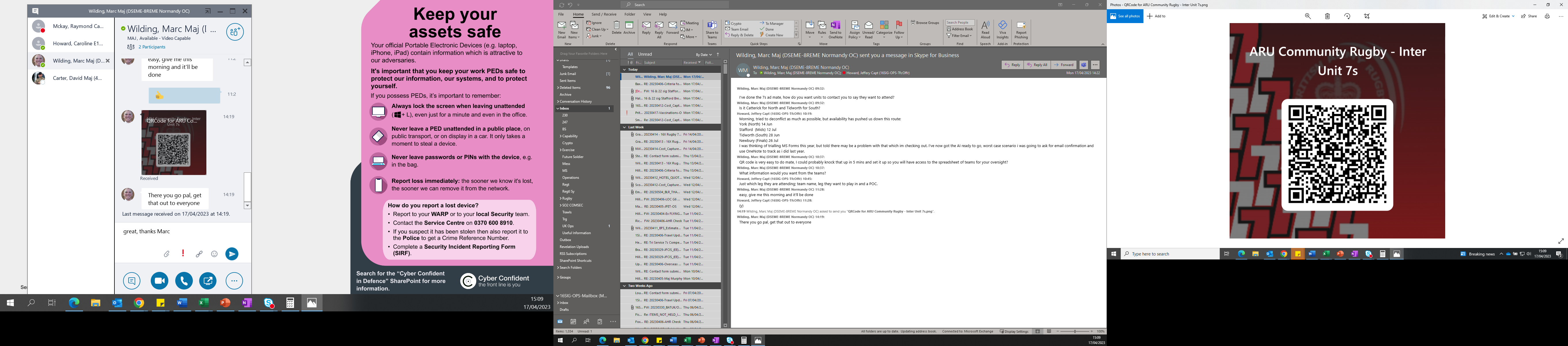
Copy to:

Chairman Army Community Rugby

Director of Army 7s

Ops Offr and Secretary, ARU

Rugby Development Officer, ARU



**Annex A to**

**ARU 7s AI**

**dated 5 Apr 23**

**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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| 2 |  |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |  |
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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 13 |  |  |  |  |

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [World Rugby Law 4](http://laws.worldrugby.org/?law=4) and [World Rugby Regulation 12](https://www.worldrugby.org/handbook/regulations/reg-12) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)