



## **ARU INTER-CORPS WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS – SEASON 2023-24**

### **CONTENTS**

INTRODUCTION .....	1
ORGANISING COMMITTEE.....	1
ELIGIBILITY.....	1
PLAYER ELIGIBILITY.....	2
FIXTURES.....	2
COMPETITION SCORING .....	3
UN-PLAYED, POSTPONED AND ABANDONED MATCHES .....	4
KICK OFF AND DELAYED ARRIVALS.....	4
REFEREES AND TOUCH JUDGES .....	4
GROUND.....	4
FINALS DAY.....	4
COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS .....	5
CONTACTS .....	5

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Competition shall be called the “***The Army Rugby Union (ARU) Women’s Inter-Corps Rugby Union Championship***,” hereafter referred to as the ***Women’s Corps Competition***. Participation in the Women’s Corps Competition shall be for Corps of the Regular Army. The aim of the Women’s Corps Competition is to provide a playing environment above unit/garrison level for players considered to be talented enough and to provide a “breeding ground” and selection arena for the consideration of players for the elite Army sides.

2. The Women’s Corps Competition will be played under the auspices of all existing IRB Laws and RFU Regulations (specifically Regulation 13 – Adult Competitions) and ARU Rules and Regulations.

### **ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

3. The Competition shall be organised under the direction of the Chair of ARU Community Rugby whose decision shall be binding and final on any matter not provided for in these regulations. The lead for the running of the Women’s Corps Comp will be the Director of Corps Rugby (herein known as ‘the Director’) supported by the Corps Women’s Secretary. Other individuals may be co-opted to assist in the administration of the Competition as required.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

4. The Women’s Corps Competition is open to recognised Corps who are affiliated to the Army Rugby Union. This 2022-23 Season will change the way Corps are affiliated to best maximise

playing pool numbers and promote competition. Each Corps team will play in a round robin competition; participating teams are:

Lead Corps	Supporting Corps
AMS	RAPTC, CAMUS
RLC	Inf
RA	AAC, RAC
REME	RE, R Sigs
AGC	Int

## PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

5. The eligibility of SP to participate in Service sport is published in Part 1, Chapter 2 of [JSP 660](#). As well as the participants, the eligibility to engage in Service sport also applies equally to the coaches and officials required for the delivery and safe conduct of the sport. Ineligible personnel for Corps Rugby events are Regular Reserves (i.e. ex-Regulars with only their residual mobilisation liability) and Sponsored Reserves. UOTC cadets are deemed to not yet belong to a Corps so are also ineligible to participate in this competition. All players must be at least 18 years old unless personnel have completed a Playing Adult Rugby Player Approval Form via the ARU Chief Operating Officer.

6. Corps Secretaries/Management are to nominate their playing squad of no more than 23 players no later than 30 mins before kick off, of which all 23 may take the field. Substitutes should be able to roll on and roll off throughout the match and where possible team secretaries/coaches should ensure that all players play a minimum of 30 mins game time in league matches.

7. Teams should start matches with players suitably trained and experienced to play in the front row. Where teams cannot produce suitably trained and experienced front rows, the game should still proceed but with uncontested scrums. The team that cannot produce a front row forfeits their league point for participation. Further rules applicable to front row are:

- a. If a series of injuries, temporary suspensions (yellow cards) or dismissals (red cards) leads to a team being unable to field a front row, the fixture will continue with uncontested scrums for as long as required and the result will stand.
- b. On the return to the field of a front row player who has been temporarily suspended (yellow card) or replaced ('blood injury'), the match shall continue with contested scrums provided it is safe to do so.
- c. If the referee, or opposition, feels that a team has feigned injury in order to achieve uncontested scrums, a formal report shall be submitted to the Chairman of Corps rugby for further investigation.

8. Where teams cannot raise a full XV they may seek support from others Corps but only if those players do not already have a Corps fixture on the same date. Scoring in matches of this type can be found at para 13.

9. Corps XV matches may be played with as few as 10 players per side but only on agreement from both sides and only in extremis.

## FIXTURES

10. The dates for Corps League fixtures and the Finals Day will be circulated by the ARU in the Summer preceding the season in accordance with the ARU Structured Season. Fixture details will be posted on the ARU website. Secretaries/Managers of each Corps are to make the final coordinating agreements with each other to confirm match details and specific location.

11. **Corps must commit to playing fixtures as scheduled.** There is scope to deviate from the Structured Season to ensure that XV's matches are played but this must only be under agreement from both teams and the Corps Women's Secretary who is to inform Chair of ARU Community Rugby to ensure that amendments to the ARU Structured Season are captured. In the event of conflict, Chairman Corps Rugby will arbitrate where a consensus agreement cannot be reached.

## **COMPETITION SCORING**

12. Points are awarded for fixtures within the Women's Corps Comp as follows:

- a. 4 points for a Win.
- b. 2 points for a Draw.
- c. 0 points for a Loss.
- d. 1 Bonus point for scoring 4 tries (or more) or for losing by 7 points or less.
- e. 1 point for playing a fixture.

13. Where a Corps has been unable to raise a full XV and has used players from additional Corps sides, scoring for that side will be (if both teams have borrowed players, both will receive league points as below. Scoring for an opponent who has not had to borrow players remains as per Para 12):

- a. 2 points for a Win.
- b. 1 points for a Draw.
- c. 0 points for a Loss.
- d. 1 Bonus point for scoring 4 tries (or more) or for losing by 7 points or less.
- e. 1 point for playing a fixture.

14. Teams that forfeit a game which is not rearranged will be deemed to have lost the fixture to a score of 20-0 (Bonus point victory) and 6 winning points will be awarded to the opposition.

15. If two or more teams have the same number of league points at the end of the season, final league positions shall be determined firstly by:

- a. The team with a larger number of wins in the league shall be placed higher than a team with the same number of league points but fewer wins.
- b. If teams have equal league points and an equal number of wins in the league, then a team with the larger difference between match points 'for' and match points 'away' shall be placed higher in the League than a team with a smaller difference between match points.
- c. Should two teams have the same number of league points and an equal number of wins and the same match points difference, a team having scored more match points 'for' shall be placed higher in the league than a Corps having the lesser number of match points 'for'.
- d. If this still does not establish the positions then the teams involved shall be ranked according to the number of points scored ('for') in the first league match of the season. If necessary, this process shall be extended to consider the second match, third match and so on until the final positions are established.

## UN-PLAYED, POSTPONED AND ABANDONED MATCHES

16. If a match is un-played on the first arranged date or abandoned within 60 minutes of playing time due to adverse weather conditions the match shall be rescheduled under the same arrangements on a date agreed by the relevant Corps, and the Director. If the match is abandoned after 60 minutes play, then the score at the time of abandonment shall be deemed the final match score. The decision as to the time elapsed and the necessity to abandon shall be that of the Referee alone.

17. In the event of an abandoned match, the secretary of the home team shall provide to the Director and the Corps Women's Secretary an e-mail containing a statement by the referee, the time of abandonment, the existing score and the reason for abandonment.

18. In the event of a Corps failing to fulfil its league fixtures for reasons unacceptable to the Committee, or if a Corps is suspended or expelled from the Competition, the results of all matches played by it shall be deleted.

## KICK OFF AND DELAYED ARRIVALS

19. Kick Off should be mutually agreed **at least two weeks in advance** of the match. The Director, Corps Women's Secretary and Army Rugby Union Referee Society (ARURS) Appointments Secretary must also be informed of timings and location.

20. Any unreasonable delay must be reported to the Committee and may lead to the match being awarded to the non-offending Corps.

## REFEREES AND TOUCH JUDGES

21. The Director will provide the fixtures to the ARURS Secretary to make arrangements for all matches. Secretaries of individual Corps home teams are to contact the referee to arrange final match details. In the event of no Referee being appointed or the failure of the Referee to appear, the Senior Assistant Referee shall automatically be appointed Referee under these Regulations.

22. In most cases the Secretary ARURS will provide a team of 3 match officials, however if this is not possible, each side should be prepared to provide the Referee with individuals as touch judges. The home Corps shall provide a replacement touch judge if no independent official is available.

## GROUND

23. When a late decision on the fitness of the ground for playing of a match is necessary, it shall be made by the appointed Referee. A late decision is one made within 3 hours of the scheduled kick-off time.

24. If a change of location has to be made for a fixture, this should be agreed by the two Corps Secretaries at the earliest possible opportunity. In cases of disagreement, the decision will be made by the Director. Once a decision is made the home Secretary is to inform Secretary ARURS and, if applicable, the appointed referee.

## FINALS DAY

25. **Finals Day.** The top two placed sides in the league at the end of the regular matches will play each other on Corps Finals Day to determine the overall Women's Corps Champions. The Final will be played at Aldershot in the Army Stadium.

## COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

26. Any complaint shall be notified to the Chairman of Corps Rugby by telephone within 48 hrs and thereafter submitted in writing under the signatures of the Chair of the complaining Corps within a further 48 hrs. The complaining Corps shall at the same time also send a copy of such complaint in writing to the Chairman and Secretary of other party to the complaint.

27. If either the complaining Corps or the other party to any complaint or the Corps against whom the complaint is made requires a hearing, it shall be requested in writing and the Director will appoint a time, date and place for such a hearing normally within 14 days of receipt of the written request.

28. Any party aggrieved by the decision of the Competition Committee may within 7 days of receipt of their decision, appeal in writing to the Director and the ARU Secretary re-stating the grounds on which the original appeal was made. The Corps shall not be entitled to introduce any further grounds of objection not previously stated to the Committee, nor to lodge a second objection arising from the circumstance on which the objection, is based.

29. The ARU Secretary shall on a playing matter refer the objection to the Director whose decision shall be final. On a Disciplinary matter, or other alleged irregularity, the Secretary ARU shall refer the complaint to the Chairman of Discipline.

30. Any party to an appeal under these Regulations shall provide such information or evidence and within such times as the Competition Committee or relevant Director ARU shall require. Should any party fail to provide such information or evidence within the time required the Competition Committee or Director as appropriate shall be entitled to refuse to hear that party when considering the appeal.

## CONTACTS

30. ARU Community points of contact are:

- a. Director Corps Rugby – Maj Jason Lowe - [jason.lowe688@mod.gov.uk](mailto:jason.lowe688@mod.gov.uk)
- b. Corps Women's Secretary – Capt Wanda Barkess - [wanda.barkess434@mod.gov.uk](mailto:wanda.barkess434@mod.gov.uk)
- c. Secretary ARU – Maj (Retd) Chris Fowke - [cfowke@ascb.uk.com](mailto:cfowke@ascb.uk.com)
- d. Chair ARU Community Rugby – Maj Marc Wilding – [marc.wilding962@mod.gov.uk](mailto:marc.wilding962@mod.gov.uk)

31. More information can be found at the ARU website – [www.armyrugbyunion.org.uk](http://www.armyrugbyunion.org.uk)