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**ARU INTER-CORPS CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS – SEASON 2023-24**

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# INTRODUCTION

1. The Competition shall be called the “***The Army Rugby Union (ARU) Inter-Corps Rugby Union Championship***,” hereafter referred to as the ***Corps Competition***. These regulations relate to the Men’s Competition. A separate set of regulations will be produced for the new Women’s Competition. Participation in the Corps Competition shall be for the Corps of the Regular Army. The aim of the Corps Competition is to provide a playing environment above unit 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 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 Chairman of the 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 Corps Comp will be the Chairman of Corps Rugby with Secretary Corps Rugby in support. Other individuals may be co-opted to assist in the administration of the Competition as required by the Chairman of Corps Rugby.

# ELIGIBILITY

4. The Championship is open to recognised Corps affiliated to the Army Rugby Union, for Season 2023 – 2024 these are:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **League 1** | **League 2** | **League 3** |
| RA | AAC | AGC |
| RE | INF | AMS |
| REME | RAC | Int Corps |
| RLC | R Sigs | RAPTC |

# PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

5. The The eligibility of SP to participate in Service sport is published in Part 1, Chapter 2 of [JSP 660](https://modgovuk.sharepoint.com/sites/defnet/HOCS/Documents/JSP660_Part1.pdf). 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 by no later than 30 mins before kick off, of which all 23 may take the field. Teams are only allowed to make 8 substitutions during the match. These lists are to be agreed upon by each secretary and team captain.

7. Teams in League 1 must start the match with at least 3 other players suitably trained and experienced to play in the front row. Teams in League 2 and 3 must start the match with at least 2 other players suitably trained and experienced to play in the front row. In both leagues:

a. These players may be a substitute or in the starting XV. All players nominated for the Front Row must be at least 18 years old.

b. 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.

c. 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.

d. 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 under the terms of Paragraphs 29-33.

8. Local arrangement may be made within League 2 and 3 for Corps’ to loan development front row players from other Corps’ in order to compete. Any loans should be communicated to the opposition team at least 2 days prior to the fixture. This will not affect the outcome of the fixture in which it occurs.

# FIXTURES

9. The dates for Corps League fixtures and the Finals Day have been circulated by the ARU in accordance with the ARU Structured Season. As a result of the agreed dates, the Chairman will organise the fixtures on behalf of each Corps so that each season, teams swap home and away fixtures. The fixtures will dictate the date and location of each match. In doing so, the Secretaries/Managers of each Corps are to make the final coordinating agreements with each other to confirm match details and specific location. The Competition Chairman is to be notified of any changes to the Structured Season dates or timings. Any change of fixture must take account of the primacy of other competitions within the ARU Structured Season.

10. Corps’ must commit to playing a fixture or notify the opposition of the need to reschedule at least 6 days prior to the fixture taking place. This will alleviate issues for the opposing sides when bringing players from overseas, etc. Corps who cannot play a fixture on the set date must contact the opposition at least 6 days prior the match and if so attempt to arrange a suitable date, agreeable to both sides so that as much of the season is played as possible. The Chairman Corps Rugby must be notified of changes to fixtures and will arbitrate where a consensus agreement cannot be reached.

11. All teams are to confirm with their opposition prior to the fixture that there is no clash of colour between teams and come to a mutual agreement on which team will change their colours for the fixture.

# TABLE POSITIONS

12. The Corps Championship will comprise two Leagues, one sitting above the other in seniority. Points are awarded for fixtures as follows:

a. 4 points for a Win.

b. 2 points for a Draw.

c. 1 Bonus point for scoring 4 tries (or more) or for losing by 7 points or less.

d. 1 point for Playing the Fixture (League 2 and 3 Only).

e. 0 points for teams not playing at all.

13. Regardless of winning or losing, an additional League point can also be awarded, either by a team scoring four or more [tries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Try) in a match or a team losing by seven points or less in the final score line.

14. Teams that forfeit a game will be deemed to have lost the fixture to a score of 0-20 (Bonus point victory) and winning points will be awarded to the other side. In League 2 and 3, neither team will be awarded the single ‘playing’ point. Teams who have to borrow players from their Opposition on the day in order to play the game will be deemed to have forfeited the game, but as the game has been played, they will receive the Playing point. The score will stand, and the opposition will receive the winning point (plus any bonus points for tries). In League 2 and 3 only, if a team is unable to field a full squad then the fixture is to be played under the [RFU GAME ON](https://www.englandrugby.com/participation/playing/game-on) regulations. Ultimately, it’s about the fixture being played competitively rather than a team forfeiting.

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 number of wins achieved and then on the basis of match points scored:

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 Club 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 matches won, excluding the first League match of the season. If necessary, this process shall be extended to exclude 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 Coordinator of the Competition. 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 Chairman Corps rugby 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. All matches will kick-off at 1400 hrs. Any variation to kick-off (e.g. for a flood light match) should be mutually agreed at least two weeks in advance of the match in which case the Chairman Corps Rugby and Army Rugby Union Referee Society (ARURS) Appointments Secretary must also be informed.

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

# REPORTING OF RESULTS

21. The Secretary/Management of the home team is to report the match result to the Chairman Corps Rugby by mobile phone text/WhatsApp *or* e-mail within 24 hrs of the fixture being completed. In addition, they are to send their results to the Chairman and Secretary, the ARU Development Officer, for publication on the RFU web pages.

# REFEREES AND TOUCH JUDGES

22. The Chairman 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.

23. 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.

# GROUNDS

24. 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.

25. If a change of location has to be made for a fixture, this should be agreed by the two Corps Secretaries at least 2 weeks in advance. Any change under 2 weeks must be mutually agreed by the Corps Secretaries concerned. In cases of disagreement, the decision will be made by the Chairman.

# FINALS DAY AND PROMOTION / RELEGATION

26. Finals Day. The top two placed sides in each League at the end of the regular matches will play each other on a predetermined date each season to decide the winner of the Corp competition overall for all 3 leagues. Finals will be played at Aldershot in the Army Stadium.

27. Relegation/Promotion. Relegation and Promotion within Leagues will only take place under the following conditions:

a. The Winner of the League 2 Final will be promoted to League 1 at the commencement of the next season, if they consider they are in a position to compete with League 1 teams in the following season.

b. If the Winner of League 2 considers they can compete in League 1 during the following season, the bottom placed team in League 1 (at the end of regular matches) will be relegated to League 2.

c. The Winner of the League 3 Final will be promoted to League 2 at the commencement of the next season, if they consider they are in a position to compete with League 2 teams in the following season.

d. If the Winner of League 3 considers they can compete in League 2 during the following season, the bottom placed team in League 2 (at the end of regular matches) will be relegated to League 3.

# DISCIPLINARY POWERS

28. The Committee shall have the power to recommend to the ARU Council the expulsion of any Corps from the Competition or impose such other penalty as is considered appropriate to these regulations.

# COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

29. 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 Chairman 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.

30. 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 Chairman will appoint a time, date and place for such a hearing normally within 14 days of receipt of the written request.

31. Any party aggrieved by the decision of the Competition Committee may within 7 days of receipt of their decision, appeal in writing to the Chairman of Community Rugby and the Secretary ARU 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.

32. The Secretary ARU shall on a playing matter refer the objection to the Director of Rugby (ARU) 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.

33. 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

34. ARU Community points of contact are:

1. Director Corps Rugby – Maj Jason Lowe - [jason.lowe688@mod.gov.uk](mailto:jason.lowe688@mod.gov.uk)
2. Corps Secretary – Capt Andy Corke - [Andrew.Corke321@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Corke321@mod.gov.uk)
3. Secretary ARU – Maj (Retd) Chris Fowke - [cfowke@ascb.uk.com](mailto:cfowke@ascb.uk.com)
4. Chair ARU Community Rugby – Maj Marc Wilding – [marc.wilding962@mod.gov.uk](mailto:marc.wilding962@mod.gov.uk)

35. Further information can be found:

1. [www.armyrugbyunion.org.uk](http://www.armyrugbyunion.org.uk/)

b. [https://www.facebook.com/ArmyRugbyUnionCorps?ref=hl&ref\_type=bookmark](https://www.facebook.com/ArmyRugbyUnionPremiership?ref=hl&ref_type=bookmark)