

The Three Counties Championship - Competition Regulations - 2019

1. The 3 Counties Championship competed by the Domestic Unions (DUs) of the North Midlands RFU and are 'Greater Birmingham RFU', 'Shropshire RFU' and 'Worcestershire & Herefordshire RFU'. Guest Sub-Counties or Domestic Unions may be invited to play the 3 DUs within this competition and these Regulations, 1 & 3 to 12 apply to them. Regulation 2 may be voided or an annex included by 'The Arbitration Panel'
2. The 3 DUs to play each other, in a league format, either at home or away according to the annual rotation of fixtures. The first and second placed DUs in the League are to play in a final to decide the champion.
3. When the Unions play each other 4 points will be awarded for a win, 2 points for a draw and no points for a loss. 1 bonus point will be awarded to the team who scores 4 or more tries and to a team who loses by 7 or less points. At the end of the Rounds, the League position will be decided. In the event of the equal points match points difference will apply. If still equal, then the superior number of goals; superior number of tries; superior numbers of drop goals scored in the matches will apply in that order. If still equal, then the qualifiers to be decided on the toss of a coin.
4. Players qualify for their Union by Birth. Residence or Club and must be 17 years of age and over on the date of the match. 18 years of age if they are to play in the front row.
5. Players qualify from Level Five and below. No player who has represented his Club in the First XV match, including from the Replacement bench at a Level 4 Club in the current season shall be eligible to play in this Competition. This does not exclude players who represent a Level 4 Club in 2nd and subsequent teams only those at Level 4 in the 1st XV
6. North Midlands Under 19 or Under 20 players shall be deemed as Level 5 players unless they are in contravention of Regulation 5 when that Regulation will take effect.
7. Each Union's Squad will not be more than 22 players for each match and will include 5 who can play in the front row. A team sheet must be provided to the Referee prior to the kick off. This match sheet should, in addition to naming the full squad, indicate those players capable of playing in the front row. Rolling substitutes are allowed, to a maximum of 12 changes.
8. In the event of the Referee ordering uncontested scrums to be played, then the result at the end of 80 minutes (or extra time in the final) shall apply. The team that fails to field a qualified front row is reduced to 14 players. Maintaining 8 man packs. The circumstances of the ordering of uncontested scrums shall be referred to the Arbitration Panel.
9. If, in the final, when the referee blows for full-time, the scores are equal, then a maximum period of extra time of 20 minutes (10 minutes each way) shall be played. The first team to acquire a score of any description shall be declared the winner ("Sudden Death"). Prior to the commencement of extra time the referee shall toss a coin to decide which team has the choice of kick-off or end to defend. If the scores remain equal at the completion of the periods of extra time, a drop goal competition will be held. A minimum of 5 attempts from each team will be made from anywhere behind the near 22 metre line. The choice of goal will be at the discretion

of the referee. Any players in the squad of 22 may make a maximum of 1 attempt each. If both teams have made 5 attempts and the scores remain equal, the remainder of the squad shall each make 1 attempt each until the result is decided by a team drawing ahead by 2 successful kicks. If all 22 players in each squad have made their attempts and a team is one goal ahead, that team is deemed the winner. If all 22 players in each squad have made their attempts and the result remains equal it shall be decided by the toss of a coin.

10. The Match result with the score details should be forwarded to the person nominated by the North Midlands RFU Competition Committee by 9pm on the day of the match. The Match Team sheet should be sent, by the home team, to that nominated person, to arrive not later than 48 hours after the match.
11. The Arbitration Panel;
 - i. Two members of each of the three Domestic Unions shall constitute an Arbitration Panel
 - ii. Any complaint in respect of a breach of these Regulations must be made in writing to the Secretaries of the Domestic Union concerned with copies to the other Domestic Union, and the Chairman and Secretary of the North Midlands Competitions Committee.
 - iii. The Arbitration Panel must meet and give a decision on the complaint and if the complaint is proved, to impose any penalty as may be deemed appropriate within three/four days of the complaint being made.
 - iv. Should this panel not be able to agree an outcome or penalty if to be imposed then the complaint will be forwarded to the Chairman of the North Midlands Competition Committee who will adjudicate
 - v. The Domestic Union has the right to appeal against the decision of the Arbitration Panel or the any decision made as in 11 (iv) above to the President of the North Midlands, such appeal to be within 24 hours of the Panel's decision.
 - vi. The complete process to be completed within 6 days of the complaint being made.

