

## Age Grade Yorkshire Cup Rules for the 2023-24 Season

### **Our Aims –**

- 1) To encourage more players to play competitive rugby across Yorkshire.
- 2) To encourage teams of all abilities to enter the Yorkshire Cup.
- 3) To make Yorkshire Cup fixtures a special match for players to learn from and develop their skills and knowledge of Rugby Union.
- 4) To highlight the core values of Rugby Union from players, coaches, officials, and supporters.

### **Waterfall Format –**

This means that once you have entered the Age Grade Yorkshire Cup you are guaranteed at least 5 matches across Yorkshire. There is no knock-out element to the competition and as the games proceed you are more likely to play against teams of your own standard. All teams will start in the “Europe” group and losing teams will move down to the “Asia” group after round 1. This process will continue until the end of round 5. Teams will NOT progress into a lower group after the round five games.

After the five rounds the teams will finish in 6 groups and *should* have the following results–

<b>Group</b>	<b>Europe</b>	<b>Asia</b>	<b>North America</b>	<b>Africa</b>	<b>South America</b>	<b>Australasia</b>
<b>State</b>	Won 5 games	Won 4 games	Won 3 games	Won 2 games	Won 1 game	Yet to win a game
<b>Top 2</b>	Cup	Plate	Bowl	Shield	Vase	

The teams competing in the group finals will be the best two teams in each group by points difference, taking into account, all of the games (Top 2). This is determined by those teams in the group when the round commenced.

- Should two teams be equal on points difference it will be decided on the team scoring the most tries.
- If this is equal, it will be decided on the team with the most away wins.
- If this is equal, it will be decided by the toss of a coin by the Age Grade Yorkshire Cup Secretary.
- Scores to be submitted by HOME teams within 24hrs of the game. Tries scored should be included.

## **The Core Values of Rugby Union –**

Rugby Unions' values of **Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline** and **Sportsmanship** are the elements that makes our game special for those who enjoy the culture they create. They define our game and are central to how we operate the Age Grade Yorkshire Cup. If these sound like the values you (or your players) would like to develop in a safe and stimulating environment, then please enter the Age Grade Yorkshire Cup Competition.

### **Teamwork**

Teamwork is essential to Rugby Union. We welcome all new teams at age groups from U14s, U15s and U16s, taking note of the current Age Grade restrictions, and whether or not they have any prior experience. We include them all because working as a team enriches our lives. We encourage players and coaches to work for the team, not for themselves alone, both on and off the field. We encourage young people to take pride in their team and club, rely on one another and understand that each player has a part to play. We encourage players and coaches to speak out if their team or our sport is threatened by inappropriate words or actions.

- The RFU Age Grade Laws and Law variations must be followed in all inter-club matches. The Age Grade Yorkshire Cup is no exception.
- The competition will be in three age groups – U14s by August 2023.
  - U15s by August 2023.
  - U16s by August 2023.
- Any team with 10 or more players can enter the competition (9 or more players for U14 teams).
- Teams must match the number of players fielded by their opposition or players can be loaned to the opposition to balance out the number of players.
- Should the opposition team drop below 10 players the result will be awarded to the team with 10 or more players available as a 35-0 result. It is expected that the players will then be re-arranged to make a suitable balance of numbers and abilities for the rest of the match.
- Combined teams are welcome to enter.
- Clubs can enter more than one team. They will not play each other.
- All players must be registered on GMS with a recognised Rugby Union Club.
- Teams must follow the 'half-game' rule.
- The closing date for entries is 17:00 on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023.
- Players can only represent one club during The Yorkshire Cup competition. Once they have represented their first club they become 'cup tied' and cannot play for another club in the competition for that season.

## Respect

Mutual respect forms the basis of our sport. We hold in high esteem Rugby Union; its values and traditions and we earn the respect of others in the way we behave. We respect our match officials and accept their decisions -- not always easy for our very youngest players. It is important that we, as adults, set the example, encourage our players to mature and take on board this important part of the rugby philosophy. We emphasise respect for the opposition players and supporters. We value our coaches and those who run our clubs and treat clubhouses with consideration.

- It is important that teams respect each other in the organisation of their Yorkshire Cup games. We ask clubs to respect the competition by providing a good quality pitch, with pitch side barriers to keep the players safe. Kick-off times and match hospitality must reflect the distance travelled by the opposition.
- It is the responsibility of the home club to respect the Age Grade Yorkshire Cup and the opposition by appointing a Level 2 or above qualified referee who is impartial to their team and has a RFU GMS and DBS registration.
- This referee volunteer should be identified on GMS as having a Level 2 referee qualification or above.
- This referee volunteer should also follow the Yorkshire RFU protocols of completing a full match report within 48 hours of the match, should an incident or incidents occur that are not in line with the aims of the competition or the core values of Rugby Union. Players/coaches dismissed from the field of play must be reported to the Yorkshire RFU Disciplinary Committee.

## Enjoyment

Enjoyment is the reason we organise, coach, administer and support young people to play Rugby Union and enter the Age Grade Yorkshire Cup. We want our players to enjoy training and playing. Not every player will go on to play for his country, but all of them can enjoy playing for their club, adopt a healthy lifestyle and build life skills. We encourage clubs to safeguard their players and help them have fun as part of a team and part of the rugby family while taking part in the Yorkshire Cup.

- Matches will be allocated by the Age Grade Yorkshire Cup Secretary.
- Matches will be allocated according to the Yorkshire Age Grade Structured Season and will be on a 'play on' basis. Games must be played on the day allocated.
- If BOTH teams mutually agree a PRIOR date that does NOT conflict with any other structured season event for that age group they may submit the request to the cup organiser at least 7 days in advance of the requested game date for approval to play on that date. The organisers can refuse the request and the decision is final.
- Should a team not be available on the date allocated they will be awarded a 35-0 loss and move to their next group.

- Should the match be cancelled due to pitch or weather conditions and the home venue cannot be switched, the match will be awarded as a 10-10 draw with the team remaining in the group identified by a coin toss conducted by Age Grade Yorkshire Cup Secretary.
- In the event of a major weather event or similar, the organisers may agree that all matches unable to be played on a date can be played on an alternative date set by the organisers. If no date is available due to other conflicts the round can be omitted and games moved to the next round date.
- Matches must stop should a winning margin of 50 points difference be reached. This is the result that stands. The players should then be re-organised to create two teams with a better balance of abilities for the remainder of the match.
- The Play on dates – Please check to make sure that your team is available.

	U14s	U15s	U16s
	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Round 1	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	22 <sup>th</sup> Oct	8 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Round 2	19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	12 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Round 3	14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	10 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Round 4	4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10 <sup>th</sup> Mar	28 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Round 5	17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	24 <sup>th</sup> Mar	11 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Finals	21 <sup>st</sup> April	21 <sup>st</sup> April	10 <sup>th</sup> March

## Discipline

Strong discipline underpins Rugby Union. We make sure that our sport is one of controlled physical endeavour and that we are honest and fair. We encourage clubs, teams, and coaches to obey the Laws and regulations of the Age Grade Game as they evolve dynamically to ensure an inclusive and exciting global sport. We encourage clubs, spectators, players and officials to support our disciplinary system, which protects our sport and upholds its values, and report serious breaches of the laws and regulations.

- When you enter your team into the Age Grade Yorkshire Cup, you will be asked to agree to and adhere to the aims and rules of the competition as well as the Age Grade Law variations.
- Should a team, coach or club be found not to be adhering to the aims or rules of the competition then the Yorkshire Age Grade Competition Committee (made up of the Age Grade Chair, Age Grade Competitions Sec and nominated representative) reserve the right reverse the result. ask the team/club to withdraw from the competition and/or report the team/club to the Yorkshire RFU Youth Disciplinary Secretary for appropriate action. This could lead to the adult team being allocated a points deduction.

## **Sportsmanship**

Sportsmanship is the foundation upon which Rugby Union is built. We uphold the tradition of camaraderie with teammates and opposition alike. We encourage teams and coaches to observe fair play both on and off the pitch and celebrate those who are generous in victory and dignified in defeat. We play to win, but not at all costs. We recognise endeavour as well as achievement. The wellbeing and development of individual players is central to all of our rugby activity and specifically in the Age Grade Yorkshire Cup.

- It is the responsibility of the home club to confirm with the opposition and the referee the day and date of the Age Grade Yorkshire Cup fixture and an appropriate kick-off time considering the distance that the opposition will have to travel.
- It is the responsibility of the home club to provide a pitch of suitable dimensions and in suitable condition on which to play.
- It is the responsibility of both clubs to provide at least three hours' notice should the game have to be cancelled.
- Games will be populated in GMS by the organisers in advance of the play date
- It is the responsibility of each club to complete the GMS match day card prior to the match. This should include the full playing squad for the match.
- Once the agreed result has been confirmed the winning club's Fixture Secretary must log onto GMS and enter the result and the tries scored by 15:00 on the Monday following the allocated match day.
- Should National Restrictions be in place the Age Grade Yorkshire Cup Committee reserve the right to postpone or cancel the matches or competitions
- A team must have someone with GMS Match Card Administrator role to assist with the pre and post event tasks.
- Teams should use the GMS match card to confirm opposition player eligibility queries and raise any immediate issues with opposition coaches

## Frequently Asked Questions

Q	A
How do I contact the cup organisers	Via email: Agegradecompetitions@yorkshirerfu.co.uk
Can I compete in a final if I lose a game	Yes, unless it is the last round
Will the final be local to me	We can not guarantee this, the final locations are determined closer to the date and you may have to travel a distance to the venue
Are new players to the club eligible to play in the cup	As long as they are registered to your club in GMS in the appropriate age group AND have not played for another club in previous rounds.
I don't have a full squad for a game is that a WALKOVER loss	Contact the opposition and let them know your numbers, as long as you have minimum (9-U14, 10-U15/U16) then the game can go ahead with matched numbers, consider loan players from opposition to get the game played and not have loads sat on the sidelines etc. WALKOVER should be a last resort. <i>If you need to CONCEDE the WO but please look to play a friendly if you can.</i>
Our opposition can't fulfil the fixture – what next	First speak to opposition and see if there is a way to get the game played. If not then directly contact the organisers as we will attempt to re-arrange with another side who are in the same situation as we want as many games played rather than WO or Byes.
We get a BYE, how does that impact us	Result is 10-10 draw However you proceed to next round. We want to avoid BYE wherever possible as we want teams playing rugby
No game could be played so we are involved in Coin Toss – what happens?	IF coin toss is needed 10-10 Draw is allocated to both teams but toss winner proceeds.
We played the game and the final result was a draw – Is it extra time or a replay	There is NO extra time or Replay option. The team scoring the most tries progresses to the next round. Should both teams have scored the same number of tries then the AWAY team will progress
How do we get a referee appointed	Please contact your local society and they will advise. You can use your club contacts to get a referee who is independent from the club and NOT a society member, but they MUST be on GMS with the ERRA qualification AND must have DBS current as they will be working with children. Where you can't get a referee the two teams can agree to split the duties 50/50 or use another referee PRIOR to KO. By agreeing that decision is binding. If no agreement then it will go to a DRAW!

What is the max in the playing squad on the day	World rugby rules govern this – 23. Please try to ensure you have enough front row players trained in your squad to avoid the need to go uncontested
Do we have to use all the players on the team sheets for the game	The ½ game rule applies – so yes . If coaches are unsure about the implementation of it talk to each other on the day and make sure all players are involved