

Oxfordshire RFU

Handbook for Junior U14 Boys

County Competition

2017-2018



**1. U14 Cup Competition**

The competition format will be pool stages followed by a knock-out competition to determine the Cup, Plate & Bowl finalists. Thereafter, the winners and runner-up from each pool will contest the Cup semi-final. The third and fourth in each pool will contest the Plate semi-final, and the 5th and 6th the Bowl semi-final.

There is no limit on the number of clubs who can enter. The competition format has been designed around the final team count.

**1.1. Cup Entrants 2017-18**

For the 2017-18 season the teams entering are:

U14 Pool 1 U14 Pool 2

Abingdon Banbury

Bicester Chinnor

Chipping Norton Didcot/Grove

Henley Oxford

Oxford Harlequins Wallingford

Witney

These were distributed on an alternating alphabetic basis.

**1.2. Pool Fixtures U14**

The fixtures for the 2017-18 season can be found below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Group 1** |   |   |
|   |  |   |
| Date of fixture | Home Team | Away Team |
|   |  |   |
| 17/09/2017 | Abingdon | Witney |
| 17/09/2017 | Bicester | Oxford Harlequins |
| 17/09/2017 | Chipping Norton | Henley |
| 05/11/2017 | Oxford Harlequins | Abingdon |
| 05/11/2017 | Witney | Chipping Norton |
| 05/11/2017 | Henley | Bicester |
| 10/12/2017 | Abingdon | Chipping Norton |
| 10/12/2017 | Oxford Harlequins | Henley |
| 10/12/2017 | Bicester | Witney |
| 14/01/2018 | Henley | Abingdon |
| 14/01/2018 | Chipping Norton | Bicester |
| 14/01/2018 | Oxford Harlequins | Witney |
| 11/02/2018 | Abingdon | Bicester |
| 11/02/2018 | Witney | Henley |
| 11/02/2018 | Chipping Norton | Oxford Harlequins |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Group 2** |   |   |
|   |  |   |
| Date of fixture | Home Team | Away Team |
|   |  |   |
| 17/09/2017 | Banbury | Oxford |
| 17/09/2017 | Chinnor | Didcot/Grove |
|   |  |   |
| 05/11/2017 | Didcot/Grove | Banbury |
| 05/11/2017 | Oxford | Wallingford |
|   |  |   |
| 10/12/2017 | Wallingford | Didcot/Grove |
| 10/12/2017 | Banbury | Chinnor |
|   |  |   |
| 14/01/2018 | Chinnor | Wallingford |
| 14/01/2018 | Didcot/Grove | Oxford |
|   |  |   |
| 11/02/2018 | Oxford | Chinnor |
| 11/02/2018 | Wallingford | Banbury |
|   |   |   |

From the pool stages ALL TEAMS will advance as follows (where 1g1 is the first placed team in group 1, 2g1 is the second in the group and so on).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Semi Finals** |   |   |   |
|   |  |  |   |
| Cup |  | Home | Away |
| 25/02/2018 | Cup1 | 1g1 | 2g2 |
| 25/02/2018 | Cup2 | 1g2 | 2g1 |
|   |  |  |   |
| Plate |  | Home | Away |
| 25/02/2018 | Pla1 | 3g1 | 4g2 |
| 25/02/2018 | Pla2 | 3g2 | 4g1 |
|   |  |  |   |
| Bowl |  | Home | Away |
| 25/02/2018 | Bow1 | 5g2 | 6g1 |
|   |   | 5g1 gets a bye to the final |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Finals** |   |   |   |
|   |  |  |   |
| 15/04/2018 | Cup | Winner Cup1 | Winner Cup2 |
| 15/04/2018 | Plate | Winner Pla1 | Winner Pla2 |
| 15/04/2018 | Bowl | Winner Bow1 | 5g1 |

The venue for the finals is to be confirmed.

**1.4. Referees**

The home team is responsible for arranging referee to officiate games. The Oxfordshire Society has a list of all fixtures and will make an appointment wherever possible. It is the home team’s responsibility to ensure that an appointment is made. If the Oxfordshire Society is unable to provide a referee a suitable, qualified alternative may be appointed by the home team.

**1.5 Match Results & Publication**

The winning team is responsible for letting the U14 JCC (Junior Competition Coordinator) know the match result within 24 hours of the match being played. Only the score at the point the mercy rule has been applied will be declared as official. The results will be entered on the national RFU competition database. The fixtures and results will be visible at: **http://www.englandrugby.com/fixtures-and-results/competitions/orfu-junior-cup-competition/**

**1.6 Competition Rules –U14 Junior Cups**

1. Entering teams and agreed changes to the fixture list will be finalised no later than the evening of the **Friday 8th September**. The entry fee is **£40 per team**. Cheques are payable to Oxfordshire RFU and must be sent to the Oxfordshire RFU U14s Junior Competitions Coordinator (Jane Weaver, Cadbold Farmhouse, Pillerton Priors, CV35 0PQ) by **5pm on Sunday 1st October 2017**. A one point per week deduction will occur for the pool stages for all sides whose fees are late. Payment by BACS can be made to Sort Code **40-47-62** Account No **11796127** Ref: **U14 Comp Fees XXX RFC** with an email sent to U14 JCC on the day of BACS payment .

2. After that date the only legitimate reasons for further date changes will be because both teams agree, or Oxon County set up an unscheduled match, or if on the day the weather renders the pitch unplayable. New date to be agreed between clubs; disputes to be referred to Oxon RFU U14 JCC. All changes to be notified immediately to Oxon RFU U14 JCC. In the event that a group stages match that was postponed due to weather is not able to be rescheduled before the next stage of the competition, and becomes a permanent cancellation, the following formula will be used to determine the score that is recorded. The “for” and “against” points aggregates for both teams will be averaged, and the "for" score for both will be applied to the unplayable match. Losing bonus points will be allocated as per the normal competition rules. Try bonus points will be awarded by averaging the number of try bonus points that have been won against each team. If that average is greater than 0.5, then the opposition will be awarded a try bonus point. e.g. If a team has played 4 matches, and in 3 of those their opposition have scored 4 tries or more, the average would be 0.75 and the opposing team in the cancelled match will get a try bonus point.

3. Games will be forfeited by clubs who cannot raise a side on the set date, or such modified date as is agreed, unless the club who is let down is prepared to reschedule. There is no obligation on the part of a club let down to agree to reschedule although the ORFU position is that the competition is for games to be played, not forfeited and hence all are urged to try to work together to get matches on. If the rescheduled match has to be postponed, the team requesting the original change must forfeit, regardless of who caused the second postponement. All Group matches must be played by the dates set in the Cup fixture list circulated by the Oxon RFU U14 JCC. Any forfeited game’s score will be determined by the average score of the offending side’s overall record at the end of the pool stage, unless that score is positive when the awarded score will be 0-0.

4. HOWEVER: If a club can field 12+ players then the game should be played; the opposition would also then field the same number but still have the full allowance of substitutes. Any club can do this on one occasion; after that, games are to be conceded. EXCEPTION: If a club makes known that they have ongoing difficulties with player numbers, they may be given more allowance subject to Oxon RFU U14 JCC’s approval.

5. If a side has not got an experienced front row either at the start of the game (in which case the club should inform their opponents at the earliest opportunity, ideally days before) or during it then uncontested scrums must be instituted. The end of game score will stand. Any club can only do this on one occasion; thereafter game to be conceded. EXCEPTION: If a club makes known they have ongoing difficulties with front-row numbers, they may be given more allowance subject to Oxon RFU U14 JCC’s approval.

6. Up to seven named replacements are allowed; As per the RFU continuum Regulation 15, Appendix 2, Paragraph 1, rolling substitutions are permitted. A player who has been substituted may replace any player, whether or not that player has been injured. For the avoidance of doubt, substituted players may return to the field later in the game.

7. The competition format will be pool stages followed by a knock-out competition to determine the Cup, Plate & Bowl finalists. The pool stages points will be determined as per rule 9 below. Thereafter, the winners and runner-up from each pool will contest the Cup semi-final. The third and fourth in each pool will contest the Plate semi-final, and the 5th teams will contest the Bowl final.

8. The duration of matches will be 25 minutes each way for U14s.

9. During the pool stages, 4 match points will be awarded for a win, 2 for a draw, 0 for a loss. 1 bonus point will be awarded if a team loses by 5 points or less. A bonus point will also be awarded to a team scoring 4 tries or more. No losing or try bonus points will be awarded to either team in respect of a forfeited match, regardless of the score determined in accordance with Rule 3.

10.Should one side ***lead by more than 6 tries the game must be halted and the score at that time will be recorded as the result***. This rule will be enforced strictly in the 2017/2018 season and the score at the point a six try lead must be agreed by the referee and both head coaches and reported and recorded as the result. All points scored from penalties, without limitation, up the point where the six try lead is established will be counted in the final score. The match may continue thereafter as a friendly, as agreed between the coaches and the referee.

11.Pool positions will be determined, in order, by 1) pool points accumulated, including bonus points; 2) points difference; 3) points for; 4) head to head results; 5) tries scored in head to head matches; 6) total tries scored.

12.The semi-finals will a one match knock-out format, with the higher place team in the pool stages getting home advantage. If the scores are tied the away team will win.

13.Players cannot be over aged, based on 1st September criteria. As outlined by the RFU Continuum section 15.3.5, a player may play up one age group older provided a) consent is obtained from the parents, guardians or carers of the player b) an appropriate assessment is carried out by the club and maintained on file for review if requested. (Best practice on carrying out an appropriate assessment is set out by the RFU at www.rfu.com/Regulation15Guidance)

14.Only players registered for the club who have paid the season’s subscriptions can play in cup games.

15.Any player who plays for one club in one or more Cup/League matches in the season cannot then play for another club in the same season.

16.Team sheets, showing player registration data printed from the RFU GMS website must be brought to Cup matches. This will only be reviewed if the opposition raises a doubt of eligibility. Any disputes must be referred to the ORFU U14 JCC with copies of the team lists supplied with the details of the dispute.

17.Games will kick off at a mutually agreed time on a **Sunday, preferably 11.00**. If such agreement cannot be reached, or an alternative date/time, the home side will dictate; if the away side say they cannot play they must forfeit the points.

18.If any team fails to play two thirds of the matches possible all their results will be excluded from that particular stage of the cup. If they have played more than two thirds all subsequent games will be awarded to the other side as per rule 3.

19.Winning team coaches are responsible for letting the Oxon RFU U14 JCC (cadbold@hotmail.com) know the result by **Monday lunchtime following the game**. If the game is drawn the home side takes responsibility.

20.Results and league tables will be displayed on the RFU website as soon as all the results are received.

21.The **home team** is responsible for arranging **referee** to officiate games. The Oxfordshire Society has a list of all fixtures and will make an appointment wherever possible. It is the home team’s responsibility to ensure that an appointment is made. If the Oxfordshire Society is unable to provide a referee a suitable, qualified alternative may be appointed by the home team, with the agreement of the opposition. In the unlikely event that agreement cannot be reached the home team will rearrange the fixture on a date when a suitable referee is available. If the rearranged match is postponed or abandoned for any reason and cannot be rescheduled, rule 3 will apply.

22.Each competition will have a trophy to keep for the winning team and all finalists will receive a gold or silver medal.

Amended: August 2017