

THIS IS OUR GAME. **THIS IS WELSH RUGBY.**  
DYMA'N GÊM NI. **DYMA RYGBI CYMREIG.**



## THE WRU NATIONAL YOUTH KNOCKOUT COMPETITION RULES 2024-2025

### 1. Description

The Competition regulations cover the WRU Youth Cup, WRU Youth Plate, WRU Youth Bowl and WRU Youth Shield, respectively.

### 2. Form

The Competition shall be played on a knockout format.

### 3. Eligibility to participate

#### i. Clubs

To participate in the Competition, Clubs must be affiliated to the Welsh Rugby Union and participate in the National Youth Leagues.

#### ii. Players

To be eligible to play in the Competition a player must:

- a. Be under 18 years old on 31<sup>st</sup> August, that is born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006 and must be at least 16 years old.
- b. Be registered by his Club with the WRU as a youth player or
- c. Have been granted a permit to play – **Please note only Regional Academy players can be permitted.**

Up to 2 players from a Regional Academy may play on permit in a Cup tie provided that the player had been registered with the Club seeking the permit immediately before entering into a Regional Academy.

Dispensation may be given to teams who have provided more than two players to a respective Regional Academy.

- d. A player who transfers from one Club to another shall be eligible to play for his new Club in the Competition provided that:
  - The transfer and registration application is received by the WRU before the match kick off time.

- The transfer and registration application is received by the WRU no later than midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.
- **The player has not played for his previous Club in the Competition. A player that has played for one Club in the WRU National Youth Cup, Plate, Bowl or Shield Competitions will not be eligible to play for another Club in a later round of this Competition.**

#### **4. Entry Conditions**

Clubs participating in the Competition shall agree to abide by:-

- a. The rules of the Competition contained herein
- b. The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Welsh Rugby Union Ltd and the regulations and resolutions of the Board of the Welsh Rugby Union Ltd
- c. The Bye laws, resolutions and regulations relating to the game of World Rugby to include any trials the WRU adopt.
- d. The laws of the game (World Rugby Laws will apply to this Competition).

#### **5. Responsibility for organisation**

The WRU will be responsible for organising the Competition. Arrangements for matches prior to the Semi Finals will be the responsibility of the Home Club. The WRU will be responsible for the match arrangements for the Semi Final and Final matches.

#### **6. Match Officials**

The WRU will appoint the referees to matches in the Competition

#### **7. Duration of Play**

70 minutes each match (35 minutes each half) plus any time permitted for delays (Laws of the Game 5.4).

At half time, an interval of not more than 10 minutes is allowed.

No extra time shall be played in matches in which scores are equal at full time. In such cases the winning Club shall be decided by application of rule 8 (description of winners).

#### **8. Description of winners**

Winners of the match in each tie shall be:-

- a. The Club that has scored the greater number of points at the end of a match or;
- b. In the event of an equal number of points being scored by each Club at the end of the match the winning Club be declared in the following priority:
  - i. The Club that has scored the greater number of tries
  - ii. The Club that has scored the greater number of goals
  - iii. If the result is still a tie then the Club playing away from home shall be declared the winner.

In the case of the Semi Finals if the match remains a tie after applying clauses (i) and (ii) above the match will be replayed with 7 days. In the case of the Final the trophy shall be shared.

9. **Venues**

Matches shall be played in grounds chosen by the first drawn Clubs in the rounds prior to the Semi Finals.

However, if the Home Club in a match cannot arrange for the match to be played on a ground of its choice on the given date for a round in the Competition, the WRU will determine where the match should be played. The Semi Final and Final matches shall be played at “neutral” venues chosen by the WRU.

10. **Draw**

The dates for the draw for the Rounds of the Competition will be the responsibility of the WRU, each draw should be held publicly.

The rounds of the Competition will be played on:

Round 2	-	9 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
Round 3	-	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
Quarter Finals	-	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2025 – <b>Subject to Change</b>
Semi Finals	-	TBC
Final	-	TBC

11. **Postponed or Abandoned Matches**

(i) **Postponed matches**

Matches in the Competition shall be played on the designated dates unless postponed because of ground or weather conditions or mutual agreement by both Clubs on the condition a new date is set and does not impact on with National Youth League fixtures. Postponed matches shall be rearranged and played the following Saturday

(ii) **Abandoned matches**

All matches shall be played to full time. The Referee is to be the sole judge of the time played. If a match is abandoned before full time, it shall be replayed. Abandoned matches shall be re-arranged and played the following Saturday unless the Clubs mutually agree that a result may stand, and that agreement is endorsed by the Regulatory & Competitions Manager.

12. **Uncontested Scrummages**

If a Club elects to play with uncontested scrummages that Club will not forfeit the match. Matches in the Competition may start with a Club electing to play with uncontested scrummages provided that the team electing to play with uncontested scrummages gives notice at least 24 hours before the due kick off time.

13. **Notification of Results**

The referee must submit electronically the result of a match within 1 hour following a match

**All Clubs must submit electronic team sheets for every match in the Competition.**

14. **Disqualification**

If a Club plays an ineligible player in a match in the Competition it shall be disqualified from the Competition.

In such cases the Club that has lost a match to the Club that has played an ineligible player shall proceed to the next round of the Competition instead of the disqualified Club.

15. **Protests and Disputes**

Protests or disputes arising out of the Competition or the Rules relating thereto must be made in writing to the WRU Regulatory & Competitions Manager and accompanied by a fee of £100.00 which may or may not be refunded. This is to be made known to the WRU no later than 48 hours after the day of the match in question.

Protests or disputes arising out of the Competition will be considered by the WRU's Competitions Management Committee or a Sub Committee thereof. When cases of an urgent nature occur the Chair of the Competitions Management Committee, in consultation with the Regulatory & Competitions Manager, shall have absolute discretion to deal with these cases whether provided herein or not.

Decisions made by the Competitions Management Committee Chair and the Regulatory & Competitions Manager in such cases shall be binding.

16. **Finance**

First round and Quarter Final receipts are to be kept by the home club.

**Knockout Stages Prior to Semi Finals**

The WRU will make payment of £3 per mile after a round trip of 60 miles.

There will also be an added allowance of £750 on top of the above mileage contribution for Clubs who are drawn away in consecutive knockout fixtures of 175 miles.

For clarity, if Team A is drawn away in the first knockout stage and the distance is over 175 miles then they would receive £3 per mile after 60 miles as per all matches.

However, if Team A is drawn away in the next round and the distance is again over 175 miles then they would receive £750 plus £3 per mile after 60 miles.

**Semi-Finals**

The host venue will pay a fee to the Union to host their respective Semi Final which will be determined by the WRU however will keep all income throughout the day.

The WRU will make a payment to participating teams of £3 per mile after a round trip of 60 miles.

There will also be an additional allowance of £200 for teams travelling over a 100-mile round trip.

**Rolling Substitutions**

The Competition will operate a system where all Clubs will be allowed to operate a rolling substitution system. This is conditional on the safety of teams being maintained at all times and does not contradict the provisions relating to uncontested scrums and front row requirements.