



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES RUGBY FEDERATION

COMPETITION REGULATIONS

COMPETITION DEFINITIONS

1. Definitions

1.1 For the purposes of the Union's Competition Regulations, the following definitions will apply:

- 1.1.1** ARFU means the Asia Rugby Football Union;
- 1.1.2** Assistant Referee means a Assistant Referee officiating in a Match, registered with the UAERR, officially appointed by the UAERR or the Union;
- 1.1.3** Board of Directors means the current board of directors of the Union;
- 1.1.4** Club means a club or school represented by a team participating in any Union Competition;
- 1.1.5** Competition means any rugby union competition or fixture organised or administered by the Union;
- 1.1.6** Effective Registration is as defined in Regulation [3] of these Competition Regulations;
- 1.1.7** Forfeit or Forfeiture means the sanctions set forth in relevant Specific Competition Rules for Forfeiting a Match which shall be applied;
- 1.1.8** In writing means a signed letter either i) posted or sent by courier to the relevant address or ii) sent as an e mail to the relevant address;
- 1.1.9** WR means World Rugby;
- 1.1.10** WR Clearance means the requirement under WR Regulations. A copy of the form required for such clearance is appended to these Competition Regulations at Schedule 1.
- 1.1.11** Laws of the Game means the WR laws governing the playing of rugby union, as amended from time to time;
- 1.1.12** Match means any rugby match in a Competition;
- 1.1.13** Match Manager is provided by the home team and is responsible for the completion of Match Registration Forms and managing the playing enclosure;
- 1.1.14** Match Registration Form means the registration form filled out by each team for each Match;



- 1.1.15** Player means a player holding Effective Registration with a Club;
- 1.1.16** Player Registration Form means the registration form to register Players with the UAERF and give them Effective Registration;
- 1.1.17** Referee means a UAERR appointed match referee officiating in the Match;
- 1.1.18** Specific Competition Rules means the rules issued by the Union from time to time regarding each Competition;
- 1.1.19** Trained Front Row player means a Player who, in the reasonable belief of the relevant Club or school, is competent and able to play in the front row of a scrum at the level of the relevant Match;
- 1.1.20** UAERR means the UAE Rugby Referees ;
- 1.1.21** Union means the UAE Rugby Federation;

1.2 Words in the singular include the plural and vice versa; a reference to a gender includes the other gender. Where the provisions of any Specific Competition Rules conflict with the provisions herein the Specific Competition Rules shall apply.

2 Competitions

2.1 UAERF is responsible for organising and administering the Competitions.

2.2 For any exception set out in the relevant Specific Competition Rules, these Competition Regulations shall apply to all Clubs and in respect of all League and Cup Competitions.

2.3 UAERF shall have the absolute discretion to decide on the interpretation or application of these Competition Regulations or any matter not provided for in these Competition Regulations (including rectifying any administrative error) and shall give directions or make rulings as appropriate. UAERF's decision shall be final and binding.

2.4 Where there has been any omission or error these Competition Regulations UAERF will have power to rectify such error or omission in the manner they see fit.

2.5 If any provision of these Competition Regulations is held by any court or competent authority to be illegal, void or unenforceable in whole or in part these Competition Regulations shall continue to be valid as to the other provisions thereof and the remainder of any affected Competition Regulations.



3 Effective Registration

3.1 A club may not select a player for a match that is not registered with the UAERF

3.2 A Player shall be Effectively Registered with the UAERF once they have been registered by the Club in the Union's database and until such time as Effective Registration shall cease to have effect under the provisions of Regulations [4] or [5].

UAERF shall only permit the Effective Registration of a player where such a player has provided their Player Registration Form and the following:

3.2.1 For a player new to the UAE and where that player has played in competitions under another Union the player must have WR Clearance from that Union; If the player has played for any national team at any level or has played 1st Division Senior Club Rugby in the last 3 years; and

3.2.2 The following:

- i) a UAE Residency Visa number.
- ii) Passport Number
- iii) Date of Birth
- iv) Email Address

In the case of newly arrived players, clubs have to prove that players' residency application is in process. A letter must be provided by the Club Chairman (Schedule 1)

3.2.3 Students who are normally resident in the UAE but studying overseas may be registered after the concerned club provides the UAERF with an official letter/email written by the Chairperson indicating the player's name, age, the name of the overseas University/College/Institute and the rugby season that the player will be participating at.

3.3 No Player may hold Effective Registration with more than one UAE Club at any time.

3.4 A Player may only apply to change the Club for whom they are registered at the end of the current season with the specific consent of the UAERF.

3.5 A Player who changes the Club for whom they are registered during the



Season may not compete in the same Competition for his new Club without the specific consent of the UAERF.

- 3.6** A loan/exchange player may be granted registration with a UAE club at the discretion of the UAERF. Loan/exchange players must apply via their intended UAE club to the UAERF supplying
- (i) A letter from former club
 - (ii) Duration of loan/exchange period
 - (iii) Declaration from intended club chairman that player registration is in keeping with the spirit of the competition/rugby

3.6.1 Loan/Exchange players must be involved in club play in 'regular season' matches for at least 8 weeks. Loan/Exchange players cannot be registered for play off/finals only. ii.) Loan players need to represent the club at least 6 weeks prior to semi-finals of the league

3.6.2 Loan/Exchange players need to declare when registering with the UAERF if they have played professional or semi-professional rugby within that season.

3.7 To register a new player Clubs must apply to UAERF 48 hours before the kick off time of their next Match.

3.8 Where a Club's team has been represented in any Match by a Player or replacement who is ineligible or selected in breach of Regulation 3.1 through to 3.7 that team shall be treated as having Forfeited that Match.

4 De-registration

4.1 Refer to clause 3.4 - 3.5 for Effective De-registration

5 Loss of Effective Registration

5.1 A Player will cease to have Effective Registration with a Club:

5.1.2 Upon having Effective Registration cancelled or suspended by the UAERF for any reason; or

5.1.4 Where Effective Registration is invalidated pursuant to Regulation [6] below;

5.1.5 Subject to the absolute discretion of the UAERF to decide otherwise, where



that Player plays for any team in or under the jurisdiction of another WR Union other than the UAERF (for a team selected by the national selectors of that other union); or

5.1.6 Where and from the date upon which another WR Union, with whom a Player is currently registered and to whom a Club had applied for consent to register the Player advises the Union that any consent or clearance is refused or withdrawn or delayed.

6 False or Misleading Information

6.1 Where during the process of Effective Registration of a Player, a Club supplies incorrect or misleading information to the UAERF in any e mail, document or Player Registration Form, or any signature on the Player Registration Form or other document is not the original signature of the person purporting to have signed it, the application for Effective Registration will be void and any Effective Registration will be invalidated from the date such Effective Registration would have come in to effect but for the incorrect, false or misleading information have commenced, and each Match in which the Player participated shall be considered Forfeited.

7 Competition Regulations

7.1 All teams are required to submit a completed Match Registration Form of its Match day squad to the Match Manager and Referee 30 minutes before kickoff. The Match Registration Form shall clearly indicate those Players who are nominated as Trained Front Row Players.

7.2 Team Managers shall be responsible for forwarding their own team(s) Match Registration Forms to the Union, two days (48 hours) after the relevant Match.

8 Number of players

8.1 A team may nominate up to the maximum amount of replacements as set forth in the relevant Specific Competition Rules for each Match. Senior matches are 22 player squads.

8.2 All teams must be able to start a Match and contest the first scrum using Trained Front Row Players.

8.3 Team squads must contain at least the minimum number of Trained Front



Row Players as set forth in the relevant Specific Competition Rules for each Match.

8.4 A team shall Forfeit the Match where it fails to fulfil the requirements of Regulation [8.2 or 8.3].

9 Restriction on playing in lower divisions

9.1 For any player who, during the season has started four (4) or more matches for a Club 1st team (other than as a substitute) will be classed as a 1st team (Premiership) player.

9.2 For any 1st team player, to qualify to play a 2nds team final, they must have started five (5) or more matches for the Club 2nds team

9.3 A team which has been represented by a Player or replacement who is ineligible or selected in breach of Regulation [9.2] shall be treated as having Forfeited that Match.

10 Postponement of Matches

10.1 Subject to Regulations [10.2 and 10.3], a Club must fulfil its Competition fixture obligations in respect of any Match on the date and at the time appointed for such fixture.

10.2 A Match may be rearranged in the following circumstances:

10.2.1 Where the Referee decides a Match should not be played or should be abandoned because of weather conditions or for any other reason. The Referee's decision shall be final. If a Match is abandoned with one half having been played, then the score at the moment of abandonment shall stand and be deemed the final score in the Match; or

10.2.2 If safety, weather or any other conditions prevent a Match being played, provided that the Club seeking to rearrange a fixture must notify the UAERF, the UAERR and the scheduled opponents of all circumstances regarding the proposed postponement as soon as possible.

10.3 In the event that a Match is to be rearranged in accordance with Regulation [10.2], the fixture will be re-scheduled for a time, date and venue either as both teams shall agree, or in the absence of agreement as determined by the UAERF in its absolute discretion.



10.4 Where for any special circumstances a Club is unable to field a team for a scheduled Match, the Club affected must notify the UAERF, the UAERR and the scheduled opponents of all circumstances regarding the proposed rescheduling as soon as possible. If the UAERF and the scheduled opponents agree and the re-scheduled Match can be played before the original date or the first available date thereafter, the UAERF may, in its absolute discretion, allow the Match to be played without imposing any penalty. No Match may be rearranged by agreement between Clubs without the prior written consent of the UAERF. Where the relevant Club's opponents object to the Match being replayed then the Match shall be considered Forfeited by the Club who originally cancelled.

10.5 Where a Club is over 30 minutes late for a scheduled Match then the opposition Club may claim that the Match should be re-scheduled or Forfeited by the Club arriving late.

11 Failure to honour fixtures

11.1 Where the UAERF is of the view that a Club has unjustifiably failed to fulfil its Competition fixture obligations, the UAERF shall consider such action to be Forfeiture of that Match

11.2 The Forfeiting team has to give notice by Wednesday 10pm prior to game day.

11.2.1 If notice is not given the opposition has the right to pass on any charges occurred due to late notification. This includes catering, transport and pitch hire.

12 Appeals

12.1 An appeal against any UAERF decision made under these Competition Regulations must be made in writing to the UAERF Board of Directors. Where the appeal relates to the rescheduling of a Match, notice of appeal must be given 7 days before the date allotted for the rescheduled Match, stating detailed reasons.

12.2 The appeal will be considered and decided by the UAERF Board of Directors. All decisions of the UAERF Board of Directors will be made known to the relevant Clubs, and, where appropriate, before any disputed Match is due to be played. The decision by the UAERF Board of Directors will be final in all cases.



13 Effect of Forfeiture of 3 or more Matches

13.1 Any team which Forfeits 3 or more Matches in the same Competition shall, in addition to any other penalty, be liable to disqualification from that Competition, to be decided at the absolute discretion of the UAERF Board of Directors.

14 General Competition Rules

14.1 Medical Cover:

14.1.1 It is the duty of each home or host Club to provide first response and first aid facilities at each venue. Pitch side personnel who have a responsibility for first response or first aid should hold a current relevant qualification which is recognised by the DHA/HAAD/MOH or an equivalent qualification from a nationally recognised Awarding Body and World Rugby Level 1 Medical Certificate. It is the absolute responsibility of each Club to provide these minimum requirements as a duty of care to the Players.

14.1.2 It is the duty of each home or host Club that if as set out above (Clause 14.1.1) is not available an ambulance must be present.

14.1.3 A Referee is within his or her rights not to start the game if there is no medical presence or he or she feels that the medical presence is inadequate.

14.1.4 Where a person responsible for first aid cover is present, the Referee should do no more than allow an injured Player to leave the field to receive treatment or allow the first aid person onto the field to administer treatment. The first aid person may come onto the field to administer treatment without notice in the case where a Player is down.

14.1.5 Where for any reason a first aid person is not present, the Laws of the Game provide that the Referee shall decide whether the Player may be replaced. There is no obligation on a Referee to provide or to be responsible for first aid.

14.2 If for any reason the home or host Club is in breach of Regulations 14.1 the home or host Club takes full responsibility for any injury or incident that occurs.

14.2 Game Management:

14.2.1 Spectators are not allowed within the playing enclosure. Where an enclosure exists the playing enclosure shall be the perimeter fence. Where there is no enclosure the home side must define the enclosure using rope or tape that



should be at least 5 metres from the touch line. In the event of teams playing on half of the pitch team managers and replacements may be in the half way column between the two half pitches with all spectators outside of the enclosure/pitch.

14.2.2 It is the duty of the Home Club to provide a Match Manager. The duties of the Match Manager are to supervise the completion of Match Registration Forms and checking these against the Effective Registration List (each Club or School participating in a Match shall provide their Effective Registration List to the Match Manager), and to manage the playing enclosure where only match officials and four team officials (two medical and two water carriers) are permitted. The Referee is within his or her rights to not start the game or to stop the game if there are others within the playing enclosure other than those mentioned above.

14.2.3 It is the responsibility of all Clubs to manage the behaviour of their management, players and spectators. Behaviours which is considered to be „not in the best interests of the game“ should be reported to UAERF. Should such behaviours be excessive the Referee is within his or her rights to stop the game.

14.2.4 Failure to enforce any of Regulations 14.1 and 14.2 may be considered to be a breach of UAERF Regulations. Any such failure may in the first instance be dealt with through Chairmen or Schools Managers of the Clubs but should this not produce a satisfactory response a Club may report such failings to the UAERF who may commence disciplinary proceedings against the offending Club, its management and its players or spectators.

14.3 Team Kit:

14.3.1 Clubs must inform the Union of the colours of their team outfit; jersey, shorts and socks. Jerseys shall be consecutively numbered with a minimum number size of 250 mm so as to be easily discernible. No two players in the same team should display the same number.

15 Competition Rules

15.1 Each Competition shall be governed by the relevant Specific Competition Rules.

16 Duration of Matches

16.1 The duration of matches shall be as set forth in the relevant Specific Competition Rules.



17 Drawn Matches

17.2 If there is a draw in any knockout competition:

17.2.1 The teams shall change ends and extra time of 2 periods of 10 minutes shall be played. Before extra time the Referee will conduct a toss to determine the right to kick off or choice of direction of play."Golden Points" will apply – the first team to score any points wins, and the game finishes.

17.2.2 If after extra time there is still a draw then the team having scored the most tries during the Match will be declared the winner. If the Match is still drawn then the team that scored the first points will be declared the winner.

18 Referees

18.1 A Referee shall be appointed for each Match by the UAERR. In the event of the appointed Referee not attending within 15 minutes before the time at which the Match is fixed to commence, then an Assistant Referee shall referee the Match.

Where there is no Assistant Referee a replacement referee may be agreed by the captains or honorary secretaries of the opposing Clubs on the understanding that the replacement referee will not be covered by the Union's Indemnity Policy for UAERR. This circumstance will also hold if a Referee has to leave the field for any reason and is replaced by another person.

18.2 Upon the captains of the opposing Clubs agreeing, a person who is not the designated Referee and is refereeing a Match may be replaced by the Referee at any time during the progress of the Match.

19 Under-age players

19.1 To play in any senior/adult competition a player must be 17 years old or above, with a fully completed dispensation form, signed off by the UAERF (Schedule 3)

19.1.2 The application and recommendation shall be provided to the UAERF Board of Directors, who will make the final decision as to whether to allow the applicant to play adult rugby.

19.1.3 A Player may appeal in writing outlining grounds for appeal to the UAERF



Board of Directors who will consider and decide any appeal. Their decision will be final in all cases.

19.2 No team/club may select a player to play front row that is under the age of 18.

19.3 If an under-age Player plays adult rugby without completing the above process and obtaining Union approval, the Player and the Club for which he/she has played for will Forfeit any Matches that the Player was involved in and may be liable for other sanction(s) as determined by the UAERF.



SCHEDULE 1

[To be written on club headed paper]

[insert UAERF address]

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing on behalf of [_____] Rugby Club (the "Club") we wish to complete Effective Registration for [_____] (the "Player") with the Club. We honestly believe that the Player fully intends to become a resident of, or spend at least three months in, the UAE for the following reasons

[insert reasons].

We are fully aware that under the UAERF's Competition Regulations any false information we provide to the UAERF with respect to Player's Effective Registration could lead to every match the Player is involved in being Forfeited by the Club.

Yours faithfully

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Name:

Name:

Club Chairman

Club Captain