



The Ospreys Cup Rules 2017/18

There are designated weekends when Ospreys Cup games **must** take place. Every effort has been made to co-ordinate the Ospreys Cup, Schools and District structures so that there are no clashes. WRU Pathway rules apply in all games.

In this document, the term 'Ospreys Cup' refers to all competitions organised by the Ospreys Cup Committee. These include, but are not limited to, Ospreys Cup, Ospreys Plate, Ospreys Bowl and Ospreys Shield.

The term 'home team pitch' refers to any pitch nominated by the home side anywhere within the Ospreys region or within 5 miles of their senior home pitch if the nominated pitch is outside of Ospreys region. The term 'away team pitch' refers to any pitch nominated by the away side within the Ospreys region or within 5 miles of their senior home pitch if the nominated pitch is outside the region.

The term 'website' refers to the following website. [Http://www.ospreyscup.org](http://www.ospreyscup.org)

Match Organisation

1. The home team **must** provide the away team with the venue and kick off time of the match no later than 5 days before the game date.
2. All pitches for Ospreys Cup games **must** be roped off to spectators. If you are only able to rope off one side then spectators can only watch from that side. There are no exceptions to this rule.

The only people allowed inside this barrier are a maximum of two coaches, 1 water carrier and a physio. The physio must not be an active coach so they can scan the field for injured players. All these persons must stay within their technical area, as defined in the WRU pathways. Non-compliance could lead to the referee on the day raising a code of conduct. Substitute players are not allowed inside the barrier. All the above must wear bibs. All non-bibbed people will be asked to go behind the barriers.

One other person will be allowed inside the barrier. This will be a person selected by each club to run the line. This person will be responsible for all supporters and their behavior on the day. This person cannot coach or shout to/at the players while running the line.



3. A referee will be appointed for every game by the Ospreys Cup Coordinator, Nathan Johns, who can be contacted by email (nathan.johns@ospreyscup.org) or mobile phone 07411 843095. Nathan will contact the club with the referee's details and the club is required to contact the referee no later than 3 days before kickoff. The club will confirm Venue and Kick off time with the referee. The home club will pay the mileage expenses of the referee. This is currently 45p per mile (round trip) or £10. Whichever is the larger amount. Any issues with contacting the referee or if no contact has been received about who your referee is then please contact Nathan Johns above.
4. Three fully qualified referees will be supplied for the semifinal stages. Referee costs for the semifinals will be split equally between both sides involved. The semi finals will be held on a venue determined by the match organisers. The match organisers will cover any cost of the venue. The match organisers will cover referee costs for the finals day.
5. Team sheets **must** be completed and handed to the referee before the game starts. Team sheets are available for download on the website. After the final whistle, both coaches **must** sign and confirm the result on the team sheets. The **winning** side is responsible for collecting both sheets and submitting them online. **Result sheets must be submitted within 3 days of the game by the winning team or the result will be recorded as a 0-0 and it will be presumed to have not taken place.** If you experience any issues in submitting the result, you must contact Nathan Johns before the 3 days are up and at the time, you experience these issues.
6. In the event of pitches being unplayable the following will apply:
 - i) In a dispute, a qualified referee will determine if a pitch is unplayable.
 - ii) In the event of the senior committee preventing the use of the field, the home side should try to secure an alternative venue. If unable to find a suitable venue, the game **must** be offered to the away side to host. The original home side is still the home side in this case and is still responsible for the referee costs and contact.
 - iii) If neither side can find a suitable venue, the game will be called off. This game **WILL NOT** be replayed on a different date.
 - iv) All disputes must be directed through the website and will be dealt with in the following procedure.
 - Protests or disputes in respect of cup matches must be brought to the attention of the Ospreys Cup Committee via the website and the Dispute will be dealt with within 7 days.
 - Any Appeals must be brought to the attention of the appeals committee via the website. The appeals committee will comprise of one person from each of the GMG's and a WRU



representative. This decision does not need to be unanimous and a majority vote is enough.



- v) In the event that a match does not go ahead, both teams must complete the 'online match postponement' form on the website.

Groups

1. Format: The format of the competition will be outlined at the Ospreys Cup Launch. This format will be communicated out after the launch night.
2. Teams will play each other in a round robin format until everyone has played each other once.
3. If no results sheets are received during the group stages the result will stand 0-0 with no points awarded.
4. Winning teams will get 4 points, drawn games mean both sides get 3 points while there is 1 point awarded to teams for participating in a loss. If a side loses by 7 points or less then a bonus will be awarded on top of the participation point i.e. 2 points in total. Teams not playing their game will be awarded 0 points**

**The "reason" for games not going ahead will be investigated. The results of this investigation may result in points being awarded to one or both sides.

5. In the event of the group stages being completed without any of the games being played, the independent Ospreys Cup Panel will decide the outcome of the group.
6. Format of playoffs. Please see Ospreys Cup Dates and playoffs for information.
7. In the event of a tie in the table between two teams then the result between them both will determine the winner. If that match resulted in a draw, the away side is deemed the winner.
8. In the event of a 3 way tie in the table, the following applies:
 - a) Number of away wins
 - b) If two teams have, the same number of away wins the results between the two.
 - c) If all three teams have the same number of away wins then a draw will take place.



General Rules



Club teams must register online before the Launch night. Teams must pay the entry fee of £40 at the Launch event in Margam Park.

1. You must register all players within your squad to compete in the competition via the website
2. On a match day, you must use all of your match day squad.
3. Fixtures must be played on the date provided. There will be no alternative date for unplayable pitches.
4. All players must have a registration card. Prior to every game, the registration cards must be displayed with players holding their cards in a line. The opposition coach must check the cards to ensure all players are registered and of the correct age.
5. A minimum of 12 players are required to start an Ospreys Cup game for it to count as a cup match. Should a team be unable to start with 12 players they must inform the opposition and fixture arbitrator immediately. The game will be forfeited without question. If you are then able to play a friendly between the sides by borrowing players you must do so. This is about players playing rugby.
6. There is no concussion bin. Any player suspected of a head injury must be removed from play immediately and seek medical advice. An injured player may not return to the field at any point. The referee can ask for a player to be removed for suspected injury if he/she feels it is necessary.
7. Once a player has been part of the match day squad for any game, in any of the Ospreys Cup competitions, they are "cup tied" to that team/age group. They may not play for any other team/age group, in any of the Ospreys Cup competitions, for the remainder of that season.
8. Every match must be stopped at 50 clear points (50-0, 55-5, 70-20) as per Pathway rules.
9. In the event the game has to be abandoned/stopped before full time the committee will sit to decide the outcome. The committee's decision is final on this. We can and will alter the result and/or dock points/expel a team, if any WRU investigation apportion blame on one side or the other.



Solving Disputes



1. The referees' decision on the day is final. If they deem the pitch unplayable, the game must not be played or must be moved to an alternative venue.
2. Tied games in the group stages mean that both teams walk away with 3 points each. In a tied game the home side is responsible for submitting the result. Tied games in the knockout rounds on a home venue will be decided by the following: most tries first, least number of red cards, least number of yellow cards, away side goes through. Tied games in the Semi Finals (neutral venue) will be decided by the following: Most tries, then least red cards, then least yellow cards then a toss of the coin to be done on a date and venue to be set by the Ospreys Cup Committee.
3. Tied Finals will be decided in the following way: Most tries, least red cards, least yellow cards. If the result is still a tie then the trophy will be shared.
4. **At no point will extra time be permitted to decide an outcome.**
5. In the event of a dispute on the interpretation of the definition of the rules, the Ospreys Cup Committee shall determine the intended meaning/spirit of the rules in question. This decision is final.

Half A Game

The half a game initiative is a recommendation that encourages clubs to pledge half a game of rugby to every junior player, every weekend. The initiative is breaking new ground for rugby in Wales and separates it from other sports.

1. All Ospreys Cup matches, including the knockout stages and the final, will be half a game.
2. Any side reported to be not adhering to the rules will be sanctioned by the Ospreys Cup Committee.
3. Any side found to be purposely leaving players out of the match day/competition squads will be removed from the competition.
4. Any safety concerns around half a specific player and half a game need to be brought up with Nathan Johns or Joe Davies before any game.