



UAE RUGBY FEDERATION

(UAERF)

And

Rugby Club Consortium

(RCC)

Competition Regulations

2021-2022



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GULF RUGBY MANAGEMENT

COMPETITION REGULATIONS

1. Definitions

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

- 1.1.1. WR means World Rugby
- 1.1.2. AR means Asia Rugby;
- 1.1.3. UAERF means United Arab Emirates Rugby Federation;
- 1.1.4. Board of Directors means the current board of directors of the UAERF;
- 1.1.5. RCC means Rugby Club Consortium;
- 1.1.6. Club means a club or school represented by a team participating in any UAERF sanctioned competition / tournament;
- 1.1.7. Competition means any rugby union competition or fixture sanctioned or co-sanctioned by the UAERF and organised or administered by the RCC, including, but not limited to, the UAE Premiership, UAE Division 1, UAE Division 2, West Asia Premiership, UAE Women's League, Mini & Youth & Schools rugby;
- 1.1.8. WAP means the West Asia Premiership;
- 1.1.9. UAE Women's Sevens Series means the series of tournaments/rounds culminating in a series table which determines the final standings;
- 1.1.10. Match Officials means any official appointed by RCC to manage or officiate a Match including but not limited to Match Manager, Match Referee and Assistant Referee;
- 1.1.11. Match Manager is appointed by the RCC or the home team and is responsible for the completion of Player registration on Rugby Live App, pre-match facility check, and managing the playing enclosure;
- 1.1.12. Assistant Match Manager is appointed by the home team for UAE/WAP Premiership Matches, or any play-off or final matches in any competition;
- 1.1.13. Tournament Manager means the person(s) appointed by the Host Club to manage the tournament in line with these regulations along with any tournament specific dispensations or variations;
- 1.1.14. Match Referee means a Referee registered with the UAERF officially appointed by RCC;
- 1.1.15. Assistant Referee means an Assistant Referee officiating in a Match, registered with the UAERF, officially appointed by RCC;
- 1.1.16. Season means the period during the 14 days before the 1st Match and the 14 days after the last Match as published by RCC in the form of the Match Schedule and the Match Fixtures as approved by the UAERF and the participating Clubs;
- 1.1.17. Player means a player holding Effective Registration with a Club and UAERF;
- 1.1.18. Effective Registration is as the definition in Regulation [3] of these Competition Regulations;
- 1.1.19. Player Registration Form means the online registration of players on the Rugby Live App with the UAERF and give them Effective Registration;



- 1.1.20. 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;
- 1.1.21. Forfeit or Forfeiture means the sanctions set forth in relevant Specific Competition Rules for Forfeiting a Match which shall be applied;
- 1.1.22. 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;
- 1.1.23. WR Clearance means the requirement under WR Regulations 4: Player Status, Player Contracts and Player Movement. A copy of the form required for such clearance is appended to these Competition Regulations at Schedule 1.
- 1.1.24. Laws of the Game means the WR laws governing the playing of rugby union, as amended from time to time;
- 1.1.25. Match/Squad Registration Form means the registration form filled out by each team for each Match/Competition;
- 1.1.26. An Adult player is a player who is 18 years old at the time of play;
- 1.1.27. Specific Competition Rules means the rules issued by the UAERF and RCC from time to time regarding each Competition;
- 1.1.28. DHA means the Dubai Health Authority
- 1.1.29. HAAD mean the Health Authority of Abu Dhabi
- 1.1.30. MOH means the Ministry Of Health

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 sanctioning the Competitions;
- 2.2. RCC is responsible for organising and administering the Competitions.
- 2.3. RCC will manage all UAERF sanctioned competitions and will be responsible for administering and interpreting the Competition Regulations and any appropriate sanctions.
- 2.4. For all matches, (including friendly or non-league), RCC will appoint Match Officials. Home clubs must continue to comply with section 11.1 and 11.3 of these Regulations.
- 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.
- 2.6. Variations to Competition Regulation are noted in section 17.

3 Effective Registration

- 3.1. A club may not select a player for a match that is not registered with the Club and UAERF.
- 3.2. A Player must be registered electronically on the Rugby Live App by the club. The player will be immediately registered once completing the player registration on the Rugby Live App. The deadline for registering a player is 72 hours before kick-off.



3.3. UAERF shall only permit the Effective Registration of a player where such a player has submitted their online Player Registration Form with the following documents:

3.4.1 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; and

3.4.2 The following details must be submitted electronically:

- i. Full name.
- ii. Date of Birth
- iii. Nationality
- iv. Passport Number
- v. Emirates ID Number
- vi. Email Address
- vii. Telephone Number

In order of a player to be considered a resident of UAE to compete in these games/competitions, that player must at the outset of the season have held a valid residency permit & Emirates ID, or must have electronic proof of a new application in process, or must have a binding Job Offer at hand. Tourists, non-residents and visiting players do not qualify to play in these competitions.

3.4. A Player may not hold Effective Registration with more than one UAE Club at any time.

3.5. Should a Player wish to change/transfer their Effective Registration from one club to another, that player will have to settle all and any outstanding player fees/subscriptions owing to the club. No other financial obligations can prevent a player from transferring.

3.6. In order to effect a transfer, The player needs to make the request to his current Club Manager/Chairman. The Manager/chairman will then utilise the “transfer me” option on the Rugby Live App, select the player, select the destination club and submit.

3.7. UAERF & RCC will approve the transfer, provided all criteria have been met.

3.8. Provided all outstanding subs have been settled, a player can freely transfer from 2weeks after the final game of the season and up to 4weeks before the 1st game of the season.

3.9. Should a player move geographically within the UAE, during the season, that player may request a transfer.

3.10. In the event of a catastrophic failure in relationship between club and player, a player/club may apply to the head of RCC directly for a transfer.

3.11. In the event of a club failure, all players are considered deregistered from that club, and considered available for effective registration.

3.12. Where a Club’s team has been represented in any Match by a Player or replacement Player who is ineligible or selected in breach of Regulation 3.1 through to 3.7 the team shall be treated as having forfeited that Match and all relevant forfeiture penalties will apply, and a penalty of five competition points per illegal player will be deducted from the team’s competition points.

4 Loss of Effective Registration

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

- a. Upon having Effective Registration cancelled or suspended by the UAERF and RCC for any reason; or
- b. The conclusion of the Season failing to comply with 3.4 as above;
- c. Where Effective Registration is invalidated pursuant to Regulation [6] below;



- d. Subject to the discretion of the UAERF and RCC, where a player is registered for a club/team in or under the jurisdiction of another WR or AR Union, other than the UAERF; or
- e. From the date upon which another WR or AR Union, with whom a Player is currently registered and to whom a Club had applied for consent to register the Player, advises the UAERF/RCC that any consent or clearance is refused or withdrawn or delayed.

5 False or Misleading Information

- 5.1 Where during the process of Effective Registration of a Player, a Club or Player supplies incorrect or misleading information to the UAERF and/or RCC 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 the document, the application for Effective Registration will be void and any Effective Registration will be invalidated from the date such Effective Registration would have come into effect but for the incorrect, false or misleading information, and each Match in which the Player participated shall be considered Forfeited, and the relevant penalties shall be levied against the offending Club.

6 Competition Regulations

- 6.1 All teams are required to submit their selected Team & squad through the Rugby Live App the Match Manager, the opposition and the Match referee, naming the Match-day squad, 60 minutes before kick-off.

7 Number of players

- 7.1 The maximum match squad size is 22 players including five trained front row players.
- 7.2 Where a Team cannot include 5 front row players, so the maximum squad size decreases, i.e: 5FR = 22, 4FR = 21, 3FR = 20.
- 7.3 Where a team cannot include 3 front rowers, so the move to uncontested scrums, however squad size is then limited to 18. Notice of inability to field 3 front rowers and therefore play uncontested scrums needs to be provided to the opposition club and MO, by the preceding Monday 20:00pm at the latest.
- 7.4 All teams must be able to start a Match and contest the first scrum using Trained Front Row Players, unless notice of inability to contest has been provided as per 7.3
- 7.5 Priority has to be given to a Clubs highest team, ie: A front row player has to move up to provide cover. However a Front row player can declare themselves, or their coach can, as unable to fulfil the FR requirements of a higher team, but that player is then ineligible to be a FR for the lower team, unless cover is found for the higher team.
- 7.6 In the spirit of Rugby, smaller squad sizes and rolling subs are permitted in the UAE Rugby Division 2 League only. See section 17.2 for guidance.

8 Restriction on playing in lower divisions

- 8.1 All teams are responsible to select and announce their first 15 players, I.e: First team. At the start of the season
- 8.2 A maximum of 3 players, from this first team, will be allowed to play down a division in a single game. Provided they are either: (1) a bench player for 1st team that gets less than 20mins per game or (2) they are returning players from Injury and Rehabilitation.
- 8.3 No First team player may play down a division, if their first team has a bye.



- 8.4 Any player who, during the season has started four (4) or more matches for a Club First team (i.e. not as a substitute) will be classed as a First team player.
- 8.5 No First team player may play for any other Club team.
- 8.6 For any Player, to qualify to play a Second or subsequent team semi-final and/or final, they must have started 50% or more matches for the Club Second or subsequent team, and may not be considered first team player as per 8.1 & 8.4.
- 8.7 Where a player joins the club during the season, the 50% rule applies to the number of games that player could have played before the finals.
- 8.8 A team which has been represented by a Player or replacement Player who is ineligible or selected in breach of Regulation [9.2] shall be treated as having forfeited that Match and the relevant penalties shall be levied against the offending team.

9 Postponement and Forfeiture of Matches

- 9.1 Subject to Regulations [9.2 and 9.3], a Club must fulfil its Competition fixture obligations in respect of any Match on the date and at the time appointed for such fixture.
- 9.2 A Match may be rearranged in the following circumstances:
 - 9.2.1 Where there is agreement from both clubs and the MOA, this mutual agreement needs to be provided to the RCC no later than 10 days prior to the intended fixture.
 - 9.2.2 Where the Match Manager or the Referee decides a Match should not be played or should be abandoned because of weather conditions or for any other reason. The decision shall be final. If a Match is abandoned before or during halftime, the Match must be replayed. If the Match is abandoned after halftime, then the score at the moment of abandonment shall stand and be deemed the final score in the Match; or
 - 9.2.3 If a home Club has any concerns that safety, weather or any other conditions may prevent a Match being played, the Club seeking to rearrange the Match must notify the RCC office and their scheduled opponents of all concerns regarding the proposed postponement as soon as possible prior to the scheduled fixture date. RCC will make a binding decision on the fixture progressing as scheduled or a postponement being authorised.
- 9.3 In the event that a Match is to be rearranged in accordance with Regulation [9.2], the fixture will be re-scheduled for a time, date and venue either as both teams & MOA shall agree, or in the absence of agreement as determined by the RCC office in its absolute discretion.

The teams involved in a postponed fixture shall then notify RCC in writing, no later than 12.00pm on the following Tuesday a preferred replacement date and time, (plus an alternative), for the playing of the postponed match. RCC will discuss with match officials etc. and confirm a selected date.

If a Club is late advising their opponents of the necessity to postpone and/or forfeit a League match (as noted above) then the opposition Club has the right, through the RCC (on receipt of supporting documentation) to require the Club postponing or forfeiting the match to cover any/all costs they have incurred. This includes (but not limited to) air travel, facility hire, transport and catering. The standard match forfeiting penalties to apply, including suspension from any future matches until the payments are completed. For penalties refer to section 16.
- 9.4 Where RCC is of the view that a Club has unjustifiably failed to fulfil its Competition fixture obligations, RCC will consider such action as Match Forfeiture.
- 9.5 Forfeiture of three or more Matches.



Any team which forfeits three or more Matches in the same Competition shall, in addition to any other penalty and at the discretion of the RCC office, be liable to disqualification from that Competition.

10 Appeals

- 10.1 An appeal against any RCC decision under these Competition Regulations must be made in writing by the Club's Chairman or Club's Secretary to the RCC within 72 hours of receiving the specific RCC decision in writing. RCC must advise Club of the receipt of such appeal in writing. The club must then, within 48 hours from RCC's confirmation of receipt of written appeal notice present their outline evidence to RCC, with an amount of 1,000 AED deposit.
- 10.2 Conditional on the appeal outline evidence and deposit payment being received by RCC within the above period, RCC will assemble a suitable panel to review the appeal. All decisions of the appeal panel are non-negotiable and final.
- 10.3 If the Club's appeal is successful, RCC will refund the full deposit, less any expenses incurred by the Judicial committee.

11 General Competition Rules

11.1 Requested change to Kick-off day and time:

- 11.1.1 Should a Club(s) wish to change the official scheduled kick off time, the scheduled home Club must apply to the RCC no later than 10 days prior to the match scheduled time, outlining the reasons why the change is requested. The application must include correspondence from the visiting Club confirming their approval of the change, in addition to the same confirmation from the MOA. RCC will advise the clubs within 24 hours of approval or not of the change.
- 11.1.2 Should a Club(s) wish to change the official scheduled kick off venue, provided the venue change is not material (eg: Dubai vs Abu Dhabi), the club home club will be required to notify the RCC with supporting documentation of agreement from the opposition club & MOA 96 hours prior to kick off.
- 11.1.3 Should a club wish to change the official venue, in a material manner they will need to comply with 9.2

11.2 Medical Cover:

- 11.2.1 It is the duty of every Host Club to have their own qualified first response and first aid personnel/facilities pitch side. First aid personnel who will 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 in addition to a World Rugby Level 1 First Aid in Rugby (L1 FAIR).

Home Clubs must provide at pitch side for any/all stand-alone match/s.

- A spinal board
- Head blocks
- Spider straps
- Have immediate access to an Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED).

If a Home Club cannot provide the above set equipment, a Government registered ambulance should be present with clear and quick access to the pitch where the



match is being played. This does not negate the responsibility of the Home Club as in 11.2.1 above.

In the case of the ambulance or the first responder or the medical equipment having to leave the pitch side, the Referee and Match Managers in consultation with both team managers have the right to abandon the Match.

11.2.2 Home Clubs must comply with 11.2 for every Premiership, Conference and Community Match. This applies to competition & friendly fixtures.

11.2.3 For Tournaments, Mini & Youth & Schools competitions, the total amount of equipment listed in 11.2.2 must be adequate to cover the pitches being used and located at a visible and easily accessible central location between pitches.

11.2.4 The Match Manager and/or the Referee is within their right not to start the game if there is no qualified medical presence, or they believe in their absolute discretion that the medical presence does not meet the minimum requirement, or is inadequate.

11.2.5 Where there is a requirement during a match for medical assistance and a qualified person responsible for first aid cover is present, the Referee should do no more than allow the 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 enter the field of play to administer treatment without notice in the case where a Player appears to be seriously injured and play is continuing.

11.3 Player Accident/ Medical Insurance:

11.3.1 It is a requirement that all players in competitions and training that play contact rugby have appropriate and suitable Medical Insurance

11.3.2 the minimum requirements of this medical/ player accident Insurance are set by the UAERF;

11.3.3 It is recommended that all clubs take up the selected policy of the RCC;

11.3.4 Failure to have Medical/Player accident insurance in place is considered a fundamental breach of rules, and will result in suspension of the Club's activities until rectified.

11.4 If for any reason the home or host Club is in breach of Regulation 11.1, that Club is liable to sanctioning from the RCC.

11.5 Game Management:

11.4.1 The playing Enclosure

The playing enclosure includes the playing surface and the safety parameter around the playing surface. Refer to WR Law 1: The ground.

11.4.2 A RCC appointed Match Manager or club nominated match manager, with assistance from the home Club appointed Assistant Match Manager, will be mandatory at all Premiership matches. He/she will have full responsibility to ensure, before authorising the Match Officials to start the match, and during the match that:

- The playing enclosure is correctly marked and safety compliant, as per the pitch design detail issued by RCC.
- The spectator barrier/s are in place and managed.
- The medical presence, on and off the pitch is as per regulations,



- Both teams' responsibility re documentation and side-line behaviour is compliant with the UAERF, RCC, and WR rules and regulations.
 - 11.4.2.1 A RCC appointed Match Manager will also be assigned wherever possible to manage Division 1 & Division 2 League matches, senior School matches and Mini and Youth fixtures.
 - 11.4.2.2 The Club operating a Women's League tournament will be responsible to appoint a Tournament Manager who will be required to follow the regular duties of the Match Manager.
 - 11.4.2.3 Where a RCC Match Manager cannot be appointed due to availability of personnel, the home Club or home School must appoint a Match Manager who will assume the total responsibilities of a Match Manager.
 - 11.4.2.4 Home Clubs/Schools must advise the RCC office the details of their appointed Match Manager or Assistant Match Manager, within 48 hours prior to the commencement of any/all fixtures.
 - 11.4.3 Spectators (including Club officials not assigned as a team member) are not allowed within the playing enclosure. The playing enclosure must be physically marked (barriers, ropes, tape or equivalent). The distance between the playing surface and the barrier should not be less than three (3) metres wide but is recommended to be five (5) metres wide, where practical.
 - 11.4.4 The Match Manager and the Referee are within their rights to not start the game or to stop the game if they have any concerns with regards to the playing surface and playing enclosure and/or if team players, coaches or officials move outside their designated zone and/or if there are unauthorised persons within the playing enclosure.
 - 11.4.5 It is the responsibility of all Clubs to manage the behaviour of their management, players and spectators. Behaviour which is considered to be 'not in the best interests of the game' should be reported to UAERF and RCC. Should such behaviours be excessive the Match Manager and/or the appointed Match Officials are within their rights to require the offending person/s to vacate the area before re-starting the game or stop the Match, in which instance the offending Club will be subject to relevant disciplinary actions as decided by the UAERF and RCC.
 - 11.4.6 Club/s failing to enforce any of Regulations 11 may be considered to be in breach of UAERF and RCC Regulations. Any such failure may in the first instance be dealt with through the Club Chairmen or Schools Managers but should this not produce a satisfactory response the UAERF and RCC will commence disciplinary proceedings against the offending Club or School, its management and its players or spectators.
- 11.6 Team Kit:
- 11.5.1 Clubs must inform the RCC & UAERF office of the colours of their team uniform/s; jersey, shorts and socks. Jerseys shall be numbered with a minimum number size of 250mm, so as to be easily discernible.
 - 11.5.2 No two players in the same team should display the same number at the same time during any Match.



11.5.3 In the event that any shirt number changes, (after the match registration has been declared), the Match Manager needs to be officially informed of the change. The Match Manager must officially note that in their report.

11.5.4 In the event of a colour clash, the away Club has the right to wear their first choice kit.

11.7 Sponsorship:

11.6.1 Clubs and Teams are encouraged to attain sponsors, and may offer their sponsors all or any part of their kit for advertising;

11.6.2 Clubs and Teams may offer pitch side advertising to their sponsors, through the use of (but not limited to) Banners, flags, signs, gazebos, and so on

11.6.3 Clubs and teams may offer on pitch advertising to their sponsors, however will need permission from the pitch owner to do so, this is their responsibility.

11.6.3 Pitch side and on Pitch advertising, with permission from pitch owner where necessary, its available to all and any game that a team/club plays in.

12 Duration of Matches

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

13 Drawn Matches

13.1 If there is a draw in any knockout competition:

13.1.1 Extra time of two halves of ten minutes shall be played. 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.

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

14 Match Officials

14.1 For a Premiership match, a team of three Match Officials shall be appointed by RCC in conjunction with the MOA. In the event of the appointed match Referee not attending within 15 minutes before the time at which the Match is scheduled to commence, then the appointed Assistant Referee shall referee the Match. It is then the responsibility of the Home Club to provide a Touch Judge to replace the Assistant Referee.

14.2 For a Division 1 or Division 2 Match, where only one Match Referee is appointed, and he/she fails to arrive within 15 minutes prior to the time at which the Match is scheduled to commence, then WR Law 6.1 shall apply. but;

Where there is no RCC appointed Referee available, the clubs must accept that a Club selected Referee will not be covered by any RCC Insurance. This circumstance will also hold if a RCC appointed Referee has to leave the field for any reason and is replaced by a Club selected person.

14.3 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 a RCC appointed Referee at any time during the progress of the Match.



15 Under-age players

15.1 To play in any senior/adult competition a player must be 17 years old or above, with a fully completed dispensation form, submitted through RCC for approval by the UAERF. (Schedule 3).

15.1.1 A Player may appeal in writing outlining grounds for appeal to the UAERF (with copy to the RCC office), who will consider and decide any appeal. Their decision will be final in all cases.

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

15.3 If an under-age Player plays adult rugby without completing the above process and obtaining the UAERF approval, the Player and the Club for which he/she represented will forfeit any/all such matches and may be liable for other sanction(s) as determined by the RCC.

16 Penalties and Sanctions

Breach	Sanction
Forfeit of Match – but, game played as a friendly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forfeiting team to receive nil competition points and receive no match points. Non forfeiting side awarded five championship points along with 30 match points. To be adjusted if relevant at the end of the season to reflect the forfeiting teams average performance against the top three (3) teams in the league table. RCC reserves the right to levy a financial penalty (maximum AED2,000 per offence) against any team participating in the Premiership or Division 1 competitions that are found to have unjustifiably defaulted any match/s.
Forfeit of match – no friendly game played	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forfeiting team to receive nil competition points and receive no match points. Non forfeiting side awarded five championship points along with 30 match points. To be adjusted if relevant at the end of the season to reflect the forfeiting teams average performance against the top three (3) teams in the league table. Forfeiting team to pay opposition team expenses as mentioned in Section 9.3. RCC reserve the right to levy a financial penalty (maximum AED2,000 per offence) against any team participating in the Premiership or Conference competitions that are found to have unjustifiably defaulted any match/s.
Playing a non-registered player	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forfeiture to apply, with penalties, plus deduction of five (5) championship points.
Late submission of Squads or Team selection on Rugby Live app	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Offence – official warning in writing. Second Offence – deduction of three (3) competition points



Medical Cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Any lack of provision of adequate medical cover will result in the home Club forfeiting the Match and receiving the relevant above noted forfeiture penalties.
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If a Club fails to pay the fine within seven days of receiving the RCC invoice, the Club will be suspended from all future matches until the fine is paid in full. Suspension from games will be treated as a forfeit and will attract the same financial penalty for each forfeit.

17 Competition Rules

These Specific Competition Rules for the **West Asia Premiership**, the **UAE Premiership**, the **UAE Division 1**, the **UAE Division 2**, the **UAE Women's League**, where relevant the **UAE Mini and Youth** and to also cover the **UAE Schools Competition** (the “**Specific Competition Rules**”) and any terms used but not defined herein, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Competition Regulations.

In any club, as a member of the RCC will be considered committed and bound to the rules and regulations as set out below, through their agreement to be a RCC member.

17.1 UAE Premiership and UAE Division 1

The competitions shall be known as the UAE Premiership and the UAE Division 1 (the “**Competitions**”). The competition name may be amended or changed to incorporate any title sponsor.

17.1.1 2021-2022 Competitions Format

17.1.1.1 Both competitions are organised in a league format with points being awarded as set out below;

17.1.1.2 The Premiership teams play each other home and away

17.1.1.3 The Division 1 Teams play each other once.

17.1.1.4 The top four (4) Premiership teams at the end of the 10th round of Matches will play in a Semi-final and a Final to decide the winner.

17.1.1.5 The top two (4) Division 1 teams at the end of the 11th third round of Matches will play in a Semi-final and a Final to decide the winner.

17.1.2 Points

In the league format of the Competition, points shall be awarded as follows:

- i. Four (4) competition points for a win;
- ii. Two (2) competition points for a draw;
- iii. Zero (0) competition points for a loss;
- iv. One (1) bonus point for a loss by 7 match points or less;
- v. One (1) bonus point for scoring 4 tries or more;
- vi. Five (5) competition points will be awarded to a team that gains a forfeiture;
- vii. No competition points will be awarded for a loss by more than 7 match points.
- viii. In the event of two or more teams being on equal points at the completion of the league competition, the teams' ranking will be decided according to the following:
 - a) The team having the higher positive ratio of 'points for' to 'points against';
 - b) If that is equal, then most points for;
 - c) If that is equal, then least points against;



- d) If that is equal, then the aggregate scores head to head.
- e) If that is equal, then a coin toss.

17.1.3 Forfeiture

17.1.3.1 A club indicating that they do not have the required number of players to commence a Premiership or Conference Match must first promote players from their lower team and cannot forfeit a match until this has also been exhausted. This includes but is not specific to the regulations covering Props. i.e., forfeit from lower teams up.

- a) In the instance of promoted Props, the match will commence with fully contested scrums but will revert to uncontested scrums on the sole decision of the Match Referee/Match Manager, should the scrums become dangerous at any time during the match.
- b) The team proposing to use promoted Props must inform the RCC, MOA & Opposition no later than 48 hours prior to match commencement.
- c) There will be no penalty allocated against the team using promoted Props, should uncontested scrums be required at any time during the match.

17.1.3.2 A Club forfeiting a Match, i.e. not participating in the Match shall be:

- a) Receive nil match points
- b) Lose the right to any subsequent match against the non-offending team being scheduled as a 'home' fixture.

17.1.3.3 A Club forfeiting a match, but agreeing to participate in a 'friendly' fixture (to give players the opportunity to 'play the game'), using e.g. 'uncontested scrums':

- a) Shall receive no financial penalty.
- b) This will also apply when a Club has promoted players to a higher graded team which may or may not result in an uncontested scrums match, to allow the higher graded match to proceed (as in 17.1.3.2 above).

17.1.3.4 The team receiving the forfeiture in above instances shall receive:

- a) Five (5) competition points.
- b) A minimum of 30 match points (6 tries) for and nil match points against, or
- c) An average of points scored against the offending team by the top three (3) teams at the completion of the specific League fixtures, whichever is the greater.
- d) Final League points table to be adjusted to suit these changes covering match forfeiture/s.

17.1.4 UAE Premiership Promotion/Relegation Play-off

Clubs have decided that should any club wish to enter a team into the premiership, they may do so at the outset of the season, however will need to provide evidence of ability to meet the requirements of the premiership season.

17.1.5 Duration



All matches shall consist of two equal halves each of forty (40) minutes. Stoppage time including any intervals, water breaks and injury time shall be determined by the Referee.

17.2 West Asia Premiership

The 2021/2022 competition which is known as the West Asia Premiership (the “**Competition**”), has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The competition name may be amended or changed to incorporate any title sponsor.

This competition is co-sanctioned by UAERF and AR. All games will be managed by RCC in line with these regulations (section 1–17 inclusive).

17.2.1 Competitions Format

17.2.1.1 The competition is organised in a league format with points being awarded as set forth below;

17.2.1.2 The teams play each other home and away;

17.2.1.3 UAE Clubs travelling to Bahrain may receive a travel subsidy of a TBC amount per trip.

17.2.1.4 The top four (4) teams at the end of the XX round of Matches will play a Semi-final and a Final to decide the winner.

17.2.2 The highest finishing team in at the completion of the third round shall be the ‘home’ team for each semi-final.

17.2.3 The highest finishing team at the completion of the third round shall be the ‘home’ team for the final.

17.2.4 Points

17.2.4.1 In the league format of the Competition, points shall be awarded as follows:

- i. Four (4) competition points for a win;
- ii. Two (2) competition points for a draw;
- iii. Zero (0) competition points for a loss;
- iv. One (1) bonus point for a loss by 7 match points or less;
- v. One (1) bonus point for scoring 4 tries or more;
- vi. Five (5) competition points will be awarded to a team that gains a forfeiture;
- vii. No competition points will be awarded for a loss by more than 7 match points.
- viii. In the event of two or more teams being on equal points at the completion of the league competition, the teams’ ranking will be decided according to the following:
 - a) The team having the higher positive ratio of ‘points for’ to ‘points against’;
 - b) If that is equal, then most points for;
 - c) If that is equal, then least points against;
 - d) If that is equal, then the aggregate scores head to head.
 - e) If that is equal, then a coin toss.

17.2.5 Forfeiture

17.2.5.1 A club indicating that they do not have the required number of players to commence a WA Premiership Match must first promote players from their lower team and cannot forfeit a match until this has also been exhausted. This includes but is not specific to the regulations covering Props. i.e., forfeit from lower teams up.



- a) In the instance of promoted Props, the match will commence with fully contested scrums but will revert to uncontested scrums on the sole decision of the Match Referee/Match Manager, should the scrums become dangerous at any time during the match.
- b) The team proposing to use promoted Props must inform the ERM office no later than 48 hours prior to match commencement. They must also confirm with the Match Manager, the Match Referee and the opposing team's Manager and Coach prior to match commencing and the subject player/s must be marked as such on the match team sheet. Rugby Law 3 re minimum number of Props in a team squad to continue to apply.
- c) There will be no penalty allocated against the team using promoted Props, should uncontested scrums be required at any time during the match.

17.2.5.2 A Club forfeiting a Match, i.e. not participating in the Match shall be:

- a) Deducted three (3) competition points and receive nil match points
- b) Lose the right to any subsequent match against the non-offending team being scheduled as a 'home' fixture.

17.2.5.3 A Club forfeiting a match, but agreeing to participate in a 'friendly' fixture (to give players the opportunity to 'play the game'), using e.g. 'uncontested scrums':

- a) Shall receive no financial penalty.
- b) This will also apply when a Club has promoted players to a higher graded team which may or may not result in an uncontested scrums match, to allow the higher graded match to proceed (as in 17.1.3.2 above).

17.2.5.4 The team receiving the forfeiture in above instances shall receive:

- a) Five (5) competition points.
- b) A minimum of 30 match points (6 tries) for and nil match points against, or
- c) An average of points scored against the offending team by the top three (3) teams at the completion of the specific League fixtures, whichever is the greater.
- d) Final League points table to be adjusted to suit these changes covering match forfeiture/s.

17.2.6 Duration

All matches shall consist of two equal halves each of forty (40) minutes. Stoppage time including any intervals, water breaks and injury time shall be determined by the Referee. Any game level at full time please refer to regulation 13.

17.3 UAE Division 2 League

The 2021-2022 competition shall be known as the UAE Division 2 League (the "**Competition**"). The competition name may be amended or changed to incorporate any title sponsor.

17.3.1 Competitions Format



The competition is organised in a league format with points being awarded as set forth below and the teams playing each other once home or away.

- 17.3.2 Points
 - 17.3.2.1 Games will be scored as per WR rules, but no league points or table shall be scored.
- 17.3.3 Number of Players and Substitutions
 - 17.3.3.1 Community League Teams are allowed to have less players than indicated in Section 7. See Section 17.3.4 for further guidance.
 - 17.3.3.2 Rolling substitutions will be permitted, using players who are registered on the official submitted team sheet.
- 17.3.4 Forfeiture
 - 17.3.4.1 A club indicating that they do not have the required number of players to commence a match must first inform the opposition and agree to play the Match with less numbers and/or uncontested scrums. The opposition Club in the spirit of the league may offer to lend players in order for a friendly Match to go ahead.
 - 17.3.4.2 Once both clubs have agreed, the home Club must officially inform RCC and the appointed Match Referee.
 - 17.3.4.3 In the case of both Clubs failing to reach an agreement, both Clubs must contact RCC outlining the situation. RCC will try to find a compromise to get the Match played or may award a forfeit against one of the Clubs.
 - 17.3.4.4 In case of forfeit, dependant on the circumstances, a financial penalty may or may not be imposed.
- 17.3.5 Duration
 - 17.3.5.1 All matches shall consist of two equal halves each of forty (40) minutes. Stoppage time including any intervals, water breaks and injury time shall be determined by the referee.
 - 17.3.5.2 If the Match is played with a reduced number of players, both Clubs and the Referee must agree on the duration of the Match before kick-off.

17.4 UAE Women's Sevens League

The 2018-2019 competition shall be known as the UAE Women's Sevens League (the "**Competition**"). The competition name may be amended or changed to incorporate any title sponsor.

The Competition shall be played according to the Sevens Variations of the WR Laws of the Game, as amended from time to time by WR.

- 17.4.1 Competition format:
 - 17.4.1.1 The league consists of a number of rounds in a Series format.
 - 17.4.1.2 Clubs who wish to participate must host a round of the series and must indicate to RCC by 31st August 2018, the date they wish to host, and the venue they will be using. RCC will confirm all participating clubs, the number of rounds and host clubs.
 - 17.4.1.3 Newly formed Clubs are allowed to participate in the Competition for one (1) season without hosting a tournament. If the Club wishes to participate in the Competition the following year, 17.4.1.2 will apply.



17.4.1.4 Each Tournament is divided into an A-League, B-League and a C-League as follows:

17.4.1.4.1 A-League:

- The League consists of the five (5) highest ranked teams, based on the previous season's Tournament position.
- The League is played in a round robin format where each team will play a minimum of four (4) matches per tournament, with the Team finishing top of the table after the final tournament declared the winner.
- A relegation system with the B-League applies at the end of each tournament.
- A play off will apply between the team finishing bottom of the A-League & the team finishing top of the B-League after the final tournament to decide the winner of the Plate trophy.

17.4.1.4.2 B-League:

- The League consists of the teams ranked 6th to 10th based on the previous season's Tournament position.
- The League is played in a round robin format where each team will play a minimum of four (4) matches per tournament.
- A play off will apply between the team finishing top of the B-League & the team finishing bottom of the A-League after the final tournament to decide the winner of the Plate trophy.
- A promotion system with the A-League applies at the end of each tournament.

17.4.1.4.3 C-League

- The League consists of the teams ranked 11th and lower based on the previous Tournament positions.
- The format of this League will vary depending on the number of Teams entering each Tournament.

17.4.2 The Host Club is responsible for the following:

- Pitch booking at a suitable match compliant venue paid for by the host club.
- Contacting RCC minimum two weeks before the date of the tournament to confirm Referees required.
- Host Club must forward proposed competition format to RCC for approval no later than two weeks before the date of the tournament.
- Host Club to forward the confirmed Match Schedule to all participating teams no later than seven days before the date of the tournament.
- Host Club to provide RCC with the names of the following individuals no later than seven days before the date of the tournament:
 - Tournament Manager who will be responsible for:
 - a. Ensuring the appropriate Medical provision is in place as detailed in regulation 11.2.
 - b. Ensuring the tournament runs to the agreed format.
 - c. Informing RCC of all scores, pool tables and final standings by 10am on Sunday following the Tournament.
 - d. Informing RCC of any disciplinary issues.



- Pitch Manager(s), who will assume responsibilities of a Match Manager as outlined in regulation 11.4;
Note: Tournament and Pitch Managers must not be involved in Match-day squads in any playing, coaching, managing, or medical capacity.
 - Providing medical cover as detailed in Section 11.2
 - Providing adequate pitch-side water, ice and food to participating teams
 - Providing adequate water, ice and food for Match Officials
- 17.4.3 Participating Clubs are responsible for:
- Sending their Team Declaration to RCC five days before the Tournament,
 - Completing and confirming their squad sheet with the Tournament Manager no later than one hour before the kick-off of their first Tournament Match,
 - Complying with section 11.2.1,
 - Paying 2,000 AED per team to the host Club if the participating Club is not hosting a tournament during the season.
- 17.4.4 Forfeiture:
- 17.4.4.1 If a club does not wish to participate in any round(s) of the series, the Club must inform both RCC and the Host Club in writing no later than 14 days before the tournament date and provide the reasons for not participating.
- Failure to comply with regulation 17.4.4.1, a club will pay 2,000 AED (plus VAT) penalty, (paid to RCC) to cover Host Club's expenses incurred as per regulation 9.3 (once paid, RCC will reimburse the Host Club).
- 17.4.4.2 If a team confirms participation but fails to honour their commitment, this will be treated as a forfeit and the fines above will apply.
- 17.4.4.3 UAE based Clubs must participate in a minimum of six tournaments during the season to avoid disqualification from future Leagues &/or Tournaments.
- 17.4.4.4 Host Clubs may invite Clubs from WA to participate in their tournament;
- 17.4.5 Tournament Format:
- All tournaments in the Series follow the same format with a pool and a knock-out stage.
- 17.4.5.1 Pool Phase:
- Teams will play each other in each Pool on a round robin basis. Match points will be awarded for each pool match on the following basis:
- Win = 3 Points
 - Draw = 2 Points
 - Loss = 1 Point
- 17.4.5.1.1 No extra time shall be played in pool Matches.
- 17.4.5.1.2 If, at the completion of the Pool phase, two teams are equal on competition points, the winner of the match in which the two tied Teams have played each other will be the higher ranked.
- 17.4.5.1.3 If, at the completion of the Pool phase, two teams have played each other resulting in a draw or more than two Teams are



level on Match points, the following criteria will be used in the following order until one of the Teams can be determined as the higher ranked:

- (i) The Team which has the best difference between points scored for and points scored against in all its Pool Matches shall be the higher ranked;
- (ii) the Team which has the best difference between tries scored for and tries scored against in all its Pool Matches shall be the higher ranked;
- (iii) the Team which has scored most points in all its Pool Matches shall be the higher ranked;
- (iv) the Team which has scored most tries in all its Pool Matches shall be the higher ranked; and

17.4.5.1.4 If none of the above produce a result, then it will be resolved with a toss of a coin.

17.4.5.2 Knock-out Phase:

17.4.5.2.1 The format of the knock-out phase may vary from tournament to tournament, and it is the responsibility of the Host Club to get RCC approval as in regulation 17.5.2.

17.4.5.3 Match Duration

17.4.5.3.1 The duration of all Matches will be seven minutes each half with a two-minute half time interval.

17.4.5.3.2 During the knock-out phase, in the event of a match being drawn at the end of normal playing time, sudden death (next score wins) / extra time will be played until a winner is determined. A two (2) minute water break will be held at the end of normal playing time.

17.4.5.3.3 The extra time is played in periods of five minutes. After each period the Teams will change ends without interval. In extra time the Team which scores first will immediately be declared the winner without further play.

17.4.5.3.4 A toss by the Team Managers and the Referee will be conducted to determine which team will choose either to:

- Kick off, or
- Choice of end.

17.4.6 Series League Standings

All teams participating in the Series will receive competition points according to their ranking at the end of each tournament. The overall winner of the Series will be determined by the Team with the most points as set out in the Series table below:

17.4.6.1 Series Point:

<i>Tournament Position</i>	<i>Points Awarded</i>
Tournament Winner	22 points
2 nd Place	20 points
3 rd Place	18 points



4 th Place	16 points
5 th Place	14 points
6 th Place	14 points
7 th Place	12 points
8 th Place	10 points
9 th Place	8 points
10 th Place	6 points
11 th Place	6 points
12 th Place	4 points
13 th Place	3 points
14 th Place	2 points
15 th Place	1 point
16 th Place	1 point

17.4.6.2 Criteria of resolution

- (i) In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points for any position on the Series table, the Team which has the best difference between points scored for and points scored against in all the Series Matches shall be the higher ranked;
- (ii) In the event of (i) above not providing a decision, the Team which has the best difference between tries scored for and tries scored against in all its Series Matches shall be the higher ranked;
- (iii) In the event of (ii) above not providing a decision, the position on the Series table will be considered equal (i.e. a tie).

17.4.7 Playing an ineligible player:

If a team selects an ineligible player to play in a Tournament, the following sanctions apply:

- They are deemed to have forfeited the Tournament and will attract the forfeit penalties.
- Deduction of 15 points on the overall series standings
- All teams finishing below that team in that particular tournament, will move up in the tournament standing and collect the appropriate points.

17.5 UAE Mini and Youth Competition

17.5.1 RCC will administer all UAE Mini and Youth Competition, this includes:

17.5.1.1 Fixtures lists

17.5.1.2 Collate results after every round

17.5.1.3 Update Competition Tables.

17.5.1.4 Match Officials appointment for all Under 16s and Under 18s/19s, (subject to availability).

17.5.1.5 Disciplinary and Judicial matters

17.5.1.6 Finals day. This includes pitch bookings, Match Officials Appointments

17.5.2 Clubs are responsible for:



- 17.5.2.1 Register all players with UAERF
- 17.5.2.2 Organise and manage own home match schedules, including finals day.
- 17.5.2.3 Request Match Officials from RCC no later than 21 days before the date required.
- 17.5.2.4 Forward the Match Sheet to RCC no later than 12:00 on the Sunday following the fixture.
- 17.5.2.5 Inform RCC of any change to the fixtures list, no later than 21 days before the fixture date.
- 17.5.2.6 Organise Medical provision as per above (refer 11)
- 17.5.2.6 Inform RCC of any disciplinary issues

SCHEDULE 1

