

NORTHERN NIGERIAN RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION COMPETITION RULES

NAME

1. The Competition shall be known as the Northern Nigerian League (“The League”).

ADMINISTRATION

2. The League shall be supervised by the Northern Nigerian Rugby Football Union who shall appoint an Organiser (“the Organiser”) to administer the League.

3. The Organiser shall administer the League and make such decisions as he deems appropriate to run an efficient and fair competition provided only that any such decision must not be contrary to these rules, the rules and regulations of the Northern Nigerian Rugby Football Union, the rules and regulations of the Nigerian Rugby Football Unions or the laws of the game.

4. The Organiser shall have the power to alter or amend these rules, as he deems necessary in order to run an efficient and fair competition, provided only that no rules may be changed, other than in exceptional circumstances, once the competition has started.

5. The league shall consist of one division.

PARTICIPATION

6. To participate in the League clubs must be members of the Northern Nigerian Rugby Football Union (“Eligible Clubs”).

7. Eligible Clubs shall be invited to participate in the League by the Organiser.

8. Participation shall be by invitation only.

9. A club may have more than one team in the League.

10. If a team fails to honor two or more fixtures then the Organiser may exclude that team from the competition. In the case of a team being excluded or withdrawing from the league all their results shall be expunged.

FIXTURES

11. The Organiser shall draw up the fixtures for the season subject to approval by the Committee of the Northern Nigerian Rugby Football Union

12. Participating clubs may, with the agreement of their opponents, rearrange any of their matches.

13. In the event of a dispute between clubs as to when a match should be played the match shall be played on the date originally specified by the Organiser, or any other reasonable date that the Organiser deems suitable.

14. The Organiser shall be responsible for nominating a referee and two touch judges from a neutral Club. and the home team shall pay their expenses.

15. The Organiser may also appoint a Match Commissioner to oversee the application of the Competition Rules. He is responsible for his own expenses

16. The Organiser shall use his best endeavours to secure the services of a competent referee.

17. The Organiser shall be responsible for informing the referee of these rules.

18. If in the opinion of the referee there is a colour clash the home team shall change its shirts.

19. All the league matches shall be played between 1st June and the 30th Nov.

20. Matches shall be played on Saturday afternoons unless mutually agreed between the clubs concerned or as directed by the Organiser.

21. The Organiser's permission must be obtained for any league match to be played at a ground, which is not the home ground of either of the teams involved. The Organiser's permission will not be withheld unless he believes that the choice of venue unreasonably disadvantages the club deemed to be the away team.

22. All other arrangements shall be made as for usual club fixtures.

DETERMINATION OF RESULT

23. If the referee abandons a match, for whatever reason, before fifty minutes of play has expired then the match shall be void; otherwise the result shall stand as though the match had been completed normally.

UNPLAYABLE PITCHES

24. The match shall be postponed if both captains regard the pitch as unplayable. The referee's opinion may be sought, but it is the captains' decision whether to play the match or not. If the captains cannot agree then the matter shall be reported by the referee to the Organiser or the Match Commissioner and he will make the final decision.

DRAWN MATCHES

25. In the event of the scores being equal at the end of normal time the match shall be deemed a draw.

NOTIFICATION OF RESULT/POSTPONEMENT

26. Either team may postpone a fixture but no less than 48hrs before scheduled kick-off time by notifying the Organiser. If the Organiser accepts the reason for the postponement as valid he may allow rescheduling of the match. Failure to notify the Organiser on time, or without a valid reason will result in the Organiser deeming the non-offending team to have won the match 25:0 and shall be awarded 4 points.

The offending team will receive no points.

27. The home team is responsible for notifying the Organiser of the result or of the postponement of the match by 9.00pm on the evening of the day following the match. Failure to report the result or the postponement by the due time shall, except in exceptional circumstances, automatically lead to the deduction of one league point from the home team.

POINTS AWARDED

28. Four points shall be awarded for a win, two points for a draw and one point for a loss. An additional one point will be awarded to a team losing by seven points or less. Teams scoring three or more tries will be awarded one bonus point.

29. In the event of any club failing to fulfill a match, other than for a postponement due to the pitch being unplayable, they shall forfeit the match. The non-offending team shall be deemed to have won the match 25:0 and shall be awarded 4 points. The offending team will receive no points.

30. If a match is not played due to adverse weather conditions, or the weather causes the match to be abandoned with less than fifty minutes having been played, the match shall be deemed to have been drawn 0:0, unless both teams notify the Organiser within 48 hours that they wish to replay the match and inform the Organiser at that time of the agreed replay date.

POSITION IN THE FINAL TABLES

31. The final table shall be the table as at the 1st December irrespective of the number of matches played.

32. The position in the final table shall be determined by points awarded.

33. If points awarded are equal then the team having the better points difference shall take the higher position.

34. If the teams can still not be separated then the team having scored the most points shall take the higher position.

PLAYERS

35. There is no restriction on player selection. However teams are expected to select only bona fide members of their club. Breach of this condition may lead to forfeiture of the match.

REPLACEMENTS

36. In the league matches the teams will agree on the number of replacements before the commencement of the match. Teams are encouraged to agree the number of replacements when confirming the fixture. In the event that the teams cannot agree, there will be a maximum of five replacements.

37. Teams must have five players in their team capable of playing in the front row.

UNCONTESTED SCRUMS

38. If a team opts for uncontested scrums prior to the start of the match they will not be allowed any replacements during the match, unless it is to bring on one or more front row players to allow contested scrums to take place. Once contested scrums have commenced further replacements may be made.

39. If a team is unable to contest any scrum (either by its own decision or as a result of a decision by the referee) after the start of the match that team will not be allowed to make any further replacements during the match, unless it is to bring on one or more front row players to allow contested scrums to take place.

Once contested scrums have recommenced further replacements may be made.

40. Any attempt to circumvent either rule 38 or rule 39 by opting for contested scrums merely to enable further replacements to take place will lead to the match being forfeited. The non-offending team shall be deemed to have won the match 25:0 and shall be awarded 4 points.

The offending team will receive no points.

APPEALS

41. A Club can make an appeal under these rules by writing to the Organiser. If the appeal concerns a particular match then the appeal must be made within seven days of the playing or postponement of the match concerned.

42. The Organiser may consult with whosoever he wishes in arriving at his decision.

43. The Organiser must inform the Club of his decision in writing within fourteen days of receiving their appeal or explain the reason for the delay and give a new deadline when the Club may expect his decision.

44. Once the Organiser has reached his decision and informed the Club the club can make a further appeal to the Committee of the Northern Nigerian Rugby Football Union. Such appeal must be made within seven days of receiving the written notification of the decision from the Organiser.

45. The decision of the Committee shall be final and binding.

46. All appeals will be based on written submissions. There will be no personal hearings.

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