



Spitfire Gold Veterans Competition 2018-19

Our thanks once again to Shepherd-Neame who have provided Sponsorship to this competition for a 5th consecutive year, via their Spitfire Gold branding.

Principles of the competition.

Competition Objectives

1. This year, we have stayed at 26 clubs, meaning that Tier 1 (which plays for the Cup) will have 16 teams, whilst Tier 2, which plays for the Bowl, will have 10 teams.
2. The aim of the Competition is to help sustain Vets rugby in Kent by providing a coherent, meaningful and enjoyable competition for older players.
3. The first principle is that we should strive to conduct ourselves in a gentlemanly, hospitable and sporting manner in our dealings with one another.
4. There is no point in playing rugby unless we are trying to win but participation is also important and all participants should make every effort to get their matches played – and on time.
5. Sunday afternoons are preferred to encourage wider support and boost club bar profits.
6. The competition is divided into two Tiers, to cater for larger and smaller clubs – in the interests of realistic competition.
7. The Pool stages are grouped geographically to avoid excessive travelling
8. This year, there will be a Cup, Plate and Shield Final in the Tier 1 and a Bowl final for Tier 2, to be played on a finals day in the County Town.

Competition Rules

The structure is Pools of 4 teams playing 3 games each, followed by Cup, Plate and Shield Semi-Finals for the teams finishing 1st, 2nd & 3rd in Tier 1 pools and Bowl Semi-Finals for the teams finishing 1st & 2nd in Tier 2 pools. (This means that the four teams finishing lowest in Tier 1 will not progress to Semi-Finals). Owing to having an extra 2 teams in Tier 2 this year, Group F will consist of 6 teams, which means that they will not all get to play one another in the 3 rounds available for the Pool stages, but there should still be meaningful competition for 1st and 2nd places in that group. Only the top two clubs in group E and F will progress to semi-finals.

1. Group stages to follow the same rules and points scoring system as the Shepherd Neame Kent Rural Leagues except:
 - No limit on size of squad and number of replacements used
 - No players under 35
 - Maximum of 5 players in 35-39 age group on the field at any time.
 - Front row rules as per Kent Rural except that if a team becomes unable to contest scrums, they lose a player from the field of play. (This is intended to combat "tactical injuries" to front-row players)
2. Knockout stages as above. In the event of a tie after 80 minutes, the away team wins, except in the Finals, when a tied game will be awarded to the team scoring most tries, or if still tied, most converted tries or if still tied, drop-goal shoot-out for 5 players.
3. All games to be played on or before the default date except where weather intervenes. Matches to be re-arranged by agreement of both teams and the organizers. **NB IT has been pointed out that 11th Nov is the 100 year anniversary of the armistice and may not be an acceptable date for some clubs – especially in Garrison towns. In this event, please consider playing instead on Saturday 10th Nov (although this clashes with England vs NZ, or 14th October or 22nd December, which could be an attractive festive fixture on an otherwise blank week-end.)**
4. There is no requirement for participants to be paid-up club members of the participating clubs, as we are trying to encourage retired players to turn out 4 or 5 times a season with their old mates. Each club can handle this as they see fit.
5. Home team to provide food and society ref.

Notes to Spitfire Gold Veterans Competition 2018-19.

1. Semi-Finals default date is Sun Feb 25th, Finals day is Sunday March 24th.
2. In Tier 1, The winners of each pool will progress to Cup semi-finals, A vs C, B vs D
3. In Tier 1, The Runners-up of each pool will progress to Plate semi-finals, A vs C, B vs D.
4. In Tier 1, The 3rd placed teams will play one another for a place in the shield final, A vs C, B vs D
5. In Tier 2, The winners of both pools will play the runners up of both pools for a place in the Bowl final
6. Semi Final Home draw will go to any team that played 2 away games in the pool stages. If this applies to both of a pair of semi-finalists, the home-draw will go to the team with most Pool-stage points.
7. Pool stage points will be allocated as per Junior League structure ie 4 points for a win, 3 points for a draw, 1 point for a loss, 0 points for forfeit, 1 bonus point for a losing score within 7 points of winners.
8. Please contact Kent Refs Society asap, to book society referees.

Group A Tier 1

Default Date	Home Team	Away team	Result	Score
Sunday 11 th Nov	Ashford	Thanet		
Sunday 11 th Nov	Anchorians	Canterbury		
Sunday 25 th Nov	Canterbury	Thanet		
Sunday 25 th Nov	Anchorians	Ashford		
Sunday 20 th Jan	Thanet	Anchorians		
Sunday 20 th Jan	Ashford	Canterbury		

Group B Tier 1

<u>Default Date</u>	<u>Home Team</u>	<u>Away team</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Score</u>
Sunday 11th Nov	Aylesford	Maidstone		
Sunday 11th Nov	Old Gravesendians	New Ash Green		
Sunday 25th Nov	New Ash Green	Aylesford		
Sunday 25th Nov	Old Gravesendians	Maidstone		
Sunday 20th Jan	Maidstone	New Ash Green		
Sunday 20th Jan	Aylesford	Old Gravesendians		

Group C Tier 1

<u>Default Date</u>	<u>Home Team</u>	<u>Away team</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Score</u>
Sunday 11th Nov	Sevenoaks	Sidcup		
Sunday 11th Nov	Beckenham	T Wells		
Sunday 25th Nov	Beckenham	Sidcup		
Sunday 25th Nov	T wells	Sevenoaks		
Sunday 20th Jan	Sevenoaks	Beckenham		
Sunday 20th Jan	Sidcup	T Wells		

Group D Tier 1

<u>Default Date</u>	<u>Home Team</u>	<u>Away team</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Score</u>
Sunday 11th Nov	Colfeians	Blackheath		
Sunday 11th Nov	Westcome Pk	Charlton Park		
Sunday 25th Nov	Colfeians	Charlton Park		
Sunday 25th Nov	Blackheath	Westcombe Pk		
Sunday 20th Jan	Charlton Park	Blackheath		
Sunday 20th Jan	Westcombe Pk	Colfeians		

Group E Tier 2

<u>Default Date</u>	<u>Home Team</u>	<u>Away team</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Score</u>
Sunday 11th Nov	Bromley	Elthamians		
Sunday 11th Nov	Beccehamians	Orpington		
Sunday 25th Nov	Orpington	Elthamians		
Sunday 25th Nov	Beccehamians	Bromley		
Sunday 20th Jan	Elthamians	Beccehamians		
Sunday 20th Jan	Bromley	Orpington		

Group F Tier 2

<u>Default Date</u>	<u>Home Team</u>	<u>Away team</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Score</u>
Sunday 11th Nov	Sheppey	Medway		
Sunday 11th Nov	Whitstable	Sittingbourne		
Sunday 11 th Nov	Cranbrook	Vigo		
Sunday 25th Nov	Sheppey	Whitstable		
Sunday 25th Nov	Sittingbourne	Cranbrook		
Sunday 25 th Nov	Medway	Vigo		
Sunday 20th Jan	Cranbrook	Sheppey		
Sunday 20th Jan	Medway	Sittingbourne		
Sunday 20 th Jan	Vigo	Whitstable		