



Spitfire Gold Veterans Competition 2019-20

Our thanks once again to Shepherd-Neame who have provided Sponsorship to this competition for a 6th consecutive year, via their Spitfire Gold branding.

Principles of the competition.

Competition Objectives

The aim of the Competition is to help sustain Vets rugby in Kent by providing a coherent, meaningful and enjoyable competition for older players.

The first principle is that we should strive to conduct ourselves in a gentlemanly, hospitable and sporting manner in our dealings with one another.

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.

Sunday afternoons are preferred to encourage wider support and boost club bar profits.

The competition is divided into two Tiers, to cater for stronger/larger and smaller/weaker Teams – in the interests of realistic competition.

The Pool stages are grouped geographically to avoid excessive travelling

This year, we have returned to 24 clubs, with the welcome addition of Gravesend and Deal & Betts, but with the loss (hopefully temporary) of Cranbrook, Elths, Anchs and Ashford.

However, in a change from previous seasons – and to reflect the preferences expressed for playing levels – the Spitfire Cup will be contested by only 8 clubs (Tier 1), whilst 16 clubs will compete in the Tier 2 competition for the Bowl and for the Shield, with the Plate being rested this season (This assists with the Finals Day logistics this year, as the only realistic date is in March before the clocks go forward, meaning that it would be difficult to stage 4 consecutive matches, whereas 3 can be comfortably accommodated)

Competition Rules

The structure is Pools of 4 teams playing 3 games each, followed by Cup Semi-Finals for the teams finishing 1st and 2nd in Tier 1 pools and Bowl Semi-Finals for the teams finishing 1st in Tier 2 Pools. The Shield Semi-Finals will be for the teams finishing 2nd in the Tier 2 Pools.

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: If a team starts with or reverts to uncontested scrums, they lose 7 points from their on-field score.
 - “Game On” initiative. Teams facing opposition with less than 15 players but at least 12, must reduce their on-field numbers to match the opposition – and/or provide players to them. (To be agreed before the game)

- Any team that loses after making such “Game On” concessions, will gain a bonus point in the pool stages.
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.
 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 2019-20.

1. Semi-Finals default date is Sun 9th Feb, Finals day is Sunday March 15th
2. In Tier 1, The winners of each pool will play a semi-final vs the runner-up in the other pool.
3. In Tier 2, The winners of each Pool will play a Semi-Final for a place in the Bowl Final, Group C vs D and Group E vs F
4. In Tier 2, The Runners Up of each Pool will play a Semi-Final for a place in the Shield Final, Group C vs D and Group E vs F
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Please contact Kent Refs Society asap, to book society referees.

Group A Tier 1 Spitfire Gold Cup

<u>Default Date</u>	<u>Home Team</u>	<u>Away team</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Score</u>
Sunday 3rd Nov	Sevenoaks	Canterbury		
Sunday 3rd Nov	Maidstone	Thanet		
Sunday 1 st Dec	Maidstone	Sevenoaks		
Sunday 1 st Dec	Thanet	Canterbury		
Sunday 5 th Jan	Thanet	Sevenoaks		
Sunday 5 th Jan	Canterbury	Maidstone		

Group B Tier 1 Spitfire Gold Cup

<u>Default Date</u>	<u>Home Team</u>	<u>Away team</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Score</u>
Sunday 3rd Nov	Sidcup	Charlton Pk		
Sunday 3rd Nov	Beckenham	Westcombe Pk		
Sunday 1st Dec	Beckenham	Sidcup		
Sunday 1st Dec	Charlton Pk	Westcombe Pk		
Sunday 5th Jan	Westcombe Pk	Sidcup		
Sunday 5th Jan	Charlton Pk	Beckenham		

Group C Tier 2 Spitfire Gold Bowl

<u>Default Date</u>	<u>Home Team</u>	<u>Away team</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Score</u>
Sunday 3rd Nov	Whitstable	Deal & Betts		
Sunday 3rd Nov	Sheppey	Sittingbourne		
Sunday 1st Dec	Deal & Betts	Sittingbourne		
Sunday 1st Dec	Whitstable	Sheppey		
Sunday 5th Jan	Sittingbourne	Whitstable		
Sunday 5th Jan	Sheppey	Deal & Betts		

Group D Tier 2 Spitfire Gold Bowl

<u>Default Date</u>	<u>Home Team</u>	<u>Away team</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Score</u>
Sunday 3rd Nov	Aylesford	Gravesend		
Sunday 3rd Nov	O Grvsndians	Medway		
Sunday 1st Dec	Aylesford	Medway		
Sunday 1st Dec	Gravesend	O Grvsndians		
Sunday 5th Jan	O Grvsndians	Aylesford		
Sunday 5th Jan	Medway	Gravesend		

Group E Tier 2 Spitfire Gold Bowl

<u>Default Date</u>	<u>Home Team</u>	<u>Away team</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Score</u>
Sunday 3rd Nov	Orpington	T Wells		
Sunday 3rd Nov	New Ash Grn	Vigo		
Sunday 1st Dec	Orpington	Vigo		
Sunday 1st Dec	T Wells	New Ash Grn		
Sunday 5th Jan	New Ash Grn	Orpington		
Sunday 5th Jan	Vigo	T Wells		

Group F Tier 2 Spitfire Gold Bowl

<u>Default Date</u>	<u>Home Team</u>	<u>Away team</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Score</u>
Sunday 3rd Nov	Blackheath	Old Beccs		
Sunday 3rd Nov	Colfeians	Bromley		
Sunday 1st Dec	Old Beccs	Colfeians		
Sunday 1st Dec	Bromley	Blackheath		
Sunday 5th Jan	Blackheath	Colfeians		
Sunday 5th Jan	Bromley	Old Beccs		