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##### President: Brigadier Richard Spencer

 <http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/armyrugbyleague/>

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| See Distribution |  SEC/LC/202 12 Feb 19 |

**ARMY RUGBY LEAGUE (RL) 2019 LAWSON CUP (LC) COMPETITION**

References:

1. Army RL Planning Meeting in MOD Grantham dated 04 Dec 19.
2. Army RL Annual General Meeting in MOD Grantham dated 21 Mar 19.
3. 2016DIN10-049 dated Oct 16 Travel at Public Expense for Army Sport.
4. **Introduction.** The 2019 Army RL Season including the Lawson Cup Competition was outlined, to all attendant Corps reps at Reference A. This letter and the direction contained within it super-cedes any previously proposed fixture detail. The Final of the 2019 Lawson Cup will be played in Aldershot on Wed 24 Jul 19. Maj Pete Batley RE as Secretary Lawson Cup 2019 and SSgt A Fyles REME as IC LC Finals Day 2019, will lead on delivering the 2019 Lawson Cup.

**Group 1**

* Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME)
* Royal Artillery (RA)
* Infantry (INF)
* Royal Armoured Corps (RAC)

**Group 2**

* Royal Engineers (RE)
* Royal Signals (R SIGNALS)
* Royal Logistics Corps (RLC)
* Royal Army Physical Training Corps (RAPTC)/Army Medical Services (AMS)/Adjutant General’s Corps (AGC) – combined as Spartans
1. **Match Officials (MO)**. UKAFRL MO Appointer is requested to provide adequate officials to cover all games, ideally with a referee and 2 touch judges required for the finals day. **All referees must be appointed for each fixture to be insured.** It is the responsibility of the **festival IC** to ensure a referee is appointed for each fixture, confirming detail no later than the Friday before the Wednesday match day, to enable officials to book transport and to make direct contact with the match official 48hrs before, via the UKAFRL MO Appointer Sgt Stanley or UKAFRL Director of Officials SSgt Dennis Nowell:
* james.nowell154@mod.uk or den230sig@hotmail.com Mob: 07903 720163.
* Scott.stanley203@mod.gov.uk Mob: 07712539740.
1. **Fixtures**.The 2019 Lawson Cup fixtures are detailed at Enclosure 1. The Lawson Cup will be played over several dates with all teams in each Gp playing every other Team in the Gp. The two Semi Finals; will be between Winner Gp 1 v Runner Up Gp 2 and Winner Gp 2 v Runner Up Gp 1, with the Winners in the Final. Fixtures are to be played on the dates detailed at Enclosure 1 unless changed to a date mutually agreed by both teams, with the home team responsible for informing UKAFRL MO Appointer, with endorsement of the undersigned.
2. **Rules**. All matches will be played under current Super League rules. Where possible each team should have two differing strips and in the event of a clash of strips, the side deemed to be playing at home will be required to change shirts. The home team is responsible for engagement with the UKAFRL MO Appointer for confirmation of officials for each fixture and for hosting arrangements. The teams will consist of 17 players for all Lawson Cup fixtures but additional players can be used in all Lawson Cup fixtures if it is mutually agreed by **both** team Managers and the **referee** prior to kick off.
3. **Insurance and Affiliation to Army RL**. All teams must be affiliated to Army RL which is achieved by completing Annex A and returning by hand or by email; by Wed 24 Apr 19 to the ARL Treasurer with bank payment for **£600** paid direct into the Army RL account as detailed at Annex A.The payment will offset the cost of the Army RL Community Competitions; including the single day Inter-Unit festivals of the **Army RL Naivalurua 9s (Inter-Unit) Cup** on **Wed** **22 May 19 and Army RL Yeoman 13s (Inter-Unit) Cup** on **Wed 5 Jul 19**. Both Inter-Unit competitions will again be delivered at NIL cost to participating Units with presentations and insurance costs covered by Army RL, as part of the continued initiative to get soldiers onto the field of play. Teams will be insured in accordance with the requirements of the games ruling body the Rugby Football League (RFL). Public liability is covered when games are played on MoD property. However, public liability insurance must be taken out at an additional cost if games are to be played at civilian clubs or pitches. See Unit RAO’s for advice. It is also strongly advised that individuals take out their own private insurance for player to player cover. Online registration of all participants must be completed and the fixture must be documented on Orders or within official and sanctioned documentation (such as a Corps call in notice (CIN\_ for all Lawson Cup fixtures) and are therefore deemed on duty. It is still advised that team sheets are still completed on the day of the fixture.
4. **Registration**. All players must be registered with the RFL as ARL players prior to participating in any RL fixture and especially prior to any Lawson Cup fixture. This process is now owned by Corps team managers and it is their responsibility to ensure that all personnel are registered correctly under the guidance given by the ARL Dir of Rep Rugby at the AGM (see Ref B). All match officials will be required to see and therefore authorise electronic team sheets prior to the commencement of any Lawson Cup fixture IOT assure compliance with insurance legislation.
5. **Authority for Travel**. Travel to Lawson Cup training and games, qualifies as representative sport, as authorised at References B and C. Note should be made of direction in Reference C; ***Accordingly, the use of hire vehicles must be kept to a minimum and considered to be the exception rather than the norm. Individuals must bid on WF assets and, when a vehicle is not available, obtain a non-availability certificate (NAC) before a WF hire vehicle is authorized.*** Players and support staff **must** first apply for Unit White Fleet (WF) and if unsuccessful, must then obtain a None Availability Certificate (NAC) from Unit MT and only then with the NAC can a hire car be booked using **Budget UIN A4029A and POT Code 16.**
6. **Results**.Match results are to be notified to the undersigned as soon as possible after the fixture by the Manager of the home side. 2 points will be awarded for a win, 1 for a draw and 0 for a loss. If equal on points at end of the Gp Rounds, final positions will be decided on points-difference, then the result between teams if still drawn, then the “away” team will be deemed the winner. Semi -Finals and the Final will be decided by Golden Point extra time of 10 minutes’ duration, if drawn at full time, until a winner prevails. If a fixture cannot be fulfilled, the team not at fault will be awarded 2 competition points for the win and 25 points difference, or the average points difference scored in the group stages against the “at fault” team, whichever is higher, to ensure not disadvantaged, unless re-played at a mutually agreed date. It is important that every fixture is fulfilled. The decision of the undersigned is final.
7. **Lawson Cup Trophy and Presentations**.The Team Manager REME RL (Lawson Cup Winners 2019) is requested to provide the Lawson Cup Trophy correctly engraved, to SSgt Fyles REME prior to the day of Final on Wed 24 Jul 19. The LC Finals Day will again be partially sponsored by the mental health charity ‘Sapper Support’. The undersigned will ensure appropriate presentations are procured for the event.

1. **Risk Assessments & Medical Cover**. An appropriate level of medical cover should be available for all fixtures in line with risk assessment completed by the home team management.
2. **RAPTC/AMS/AGC RL**. As agreed and endorsed by ARL Chairman at Reference A, the RAPTC, the AGC and AMS will form a composite team in 2019 to enable a strong competitive Corps level team to take the field of play for all fixtures. This will enable top quality players from these three Corps to play at the highest possible community level as the Lawson Cup is the conduit to play for the ARL and United Kingdom Armed Forces Rugby League (UKAFRL).
3. **Player Affiliation Direction**. As discussed at Reference A, and highlighted in AGM RODs with after-note highlighting slight amendment to detail discussed at AGM, in that new players from a minority non-RL playing Corps, may affiliate to the Spartans, to enable a pathway to play Corps level and Army RL.  Players once registered are available to play in all games in the season, including the Lawson Cup Final.  Permission for affiliation is to be sought via the undersigned.
4. **Lawson Cup Round 1 - Infantry Festival of Rugby** **League**. The Lawson Cup will begin with a Festival of RL in Dale Barracks on Wed 24 Apr 19, where eight Corps Teams will all play to kick off the competition. The POC for this event is CSgt Al Boyle (INF Manager) – 07810080544 - and will issue specific administration instructions via the MCG prior IOT ensure all participating teams are adequately informed and prepared. At present the following is planned:
* 8 x Corps teams in action
* 4 x fixtures played on adjoining pitches:
	+ RAC v RA (1230 pitch 1)
	+ RLC v R Sigs (1300 pitch 2)
	+ RE v Spartans (1430 pitch 1)
	+ INF v REME (1500 pitch 2)
* Changing rooms are available from 1100
* PAYD lunch facilities in the main cookhouse
* Tea and coffee area on site for players and managers
* VIP/Sponsors hosting area with tea and coffee on site
* Post match meal for all in the Dale Barracks Hub Annex at 1700 (provided by ARL)

14. **Media and Communications**. The intent for 2019 is to improve the overall brand of Rugby league in the Army and the Lawson Cup competition is pivotal to success in this area. All fixtures and events are to be professionally captured and displayed as and when practicable and the use of Army media publications (such as Soldier magazine), civilian media publications (such as Rugby League Express) and Social Media (such as ARL Twitter/facebook and similar Corps outlets) are to be exploited where and when possible IOT to improve the overall awareness of the sport. Therefore, in terms of reporting, all team Managers are to:

* Produce a match report for all fixtures (Civilian and Military) including:
	+ Minimum of 3 paragraphs
	+ Minimum of 3 photos
	+ To include the score, scorers and any stand out performances
* Distribute the report to the undersigned via email and via the MCG before COP the day of the fixture/event

***{original signed}***

PJ Batley

Capt

Secretary Lawson Cup 2019

For President Army RL

Annex:

1. Army Rugby League – Corps Team Affiliation 2019 Sheet

Enclosures:

1. 2019 Lawson Cup Fixtures (TBC once representative fixtures confirmed)
2. Minutes of the Army Rugby League Annual General Meeting 21 Mar 19
3. UKAFRL Match official Request Form

Distribution:

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| Army RL Exec CommitteeACOS ASCBUK Armed Forces RL Match Officials AppointerArmy RL Rep Team StaffArmy RL Corps Reps Army RL Website – Mr Tim Holland |