

4th April 2024

**CENTRAL LEAGUE – WARNE CUP
SEASON 2023-24**

Cup competition format

- 1) The Warne Cup is due to start w/c 15th April with Group matches (details attached), and is scheduled over 8 weeks (including a free week) with the Final early June.
- 2) The first stage of the competition, will consist of 8 groups, 6 with 4 teams, and 2 with 3 teams and a bye place. Group matches to be played between 15th April and 3rd May, with a free week to follow for any postponements.
The first week of the group stage will overlap the league free week for divisions 1-3. In the event that any re-arranged league matches do clash with cup matches, the league match takes precedence, with the cup match postponed to the free cup week. It is noted that some teams will play more or less home games in their group than away. This is 'the luck of the draw'.
- 3) Junior teams will be permitted, solely on the basis of one single team per group. Such teams will be allowed to play all their group matches, plus any 'Round of 16' matches at home. All other rounds must be on a home / away basis.
- 4) Knock out stages will follow the group free week, with the Final due to take place during w/c 3rd June, and to be played at a neutral venue, except where teams from one club are involved.
- 5) At the group stages, each team will play each other once only, as per the attached fixture list. The top 2 teams in each group will progress, to form a round of 16 teams.

The Round of 16 is due to take place during w/c 13th May, as follows:

Winner Group 1 at home to Runner-up Group 2
Winner Group 2 at home to Runner-up Group 1
Winner Group 3 at home to Runner-up Group 4
Winner Group 4 at home to Runner-up Group 3
Winner Group 5 at home to Runner-up Group 6
Winner Group 6 at home to Runner-up Group 5
Winner Group 7 at home to Runner-up Group 8
Winner Group 8 at home to Runner-up Group 7

The remaining knock out rounds take place as follows:

Quarter finals:

Winner of Match 1 (above) v Winner Match 5
Winner Match 2 v Winner Match 6
Winner Match 3 v Winner Match 7
Winner Match 4 v Winner Match 8

Semi finals

Winner Q/F Match 1 v Winner Match 3
Winner Match 2 v Winner Match 4

Cup Competition Rules

- 1) 2 points will be awarded for a win, with 1 point each for a tie. In the event of two or more teams having the same points total, the teams' positions within the group will be decided by the following criteria in order of precedence:
 - a) the result(s) of the match(es) between the team(s) involved
 - b) the difference between total points scored and total points conceded in the group matches between the tied teams.
 - c) the difference between total points scored and total points conceded in all the group matches.
 - d) the total points scored in the group matches between the tied teams
 - e) the total points scored in all the group matches
- 2) All group matches should be completed by 10th May (end of the free week). All postponements must be by arrangement with the cup secretary.
- 3) Player's qualification for the competition will be a **minimum of 3 league matches**. Any club having difficulties with the 3 match qualification, should contact the cup secretary with the name/s of the additional player/s required to play. Permission will be granted only at the discretion of the cup committee based on the situation and player involved.
- 4) **The number of players per team will be limited to a maximum of 8.** Any departure from this will only be considered by the Warne Cup secretary under exceptional circumstances.
The final list of names for all team members must be forwarded to the cup secretary by 5th April latest. Only names submitted by this date will be eligible to play in the competition. Any changes to team captains from that appearing on the website must also be notified, together with new contact details.
- 5) Prior to the competition, players may be interchanged between teams as becomes necessary, specifically to help re-balance team numbers within a club. **Once a player's name has been submitted to the cup secretary by each team, they will not be permitted to play in any of their clubs' other teams.** Consideration will be given by the committee, only where 'special circumstances' apply.
- 6) Player Handicaps will be derived from player rating values. An example of this is attached. Sets will consist always of 4 games, and up to 11 points only (no deuces). The match winners will be the team with the greater points total, with handicaps included. Doubles play will not be included.
- 7) Players' individual ratings are based on performances throughout the season, and the rating given to each player, will remain the same throughout the competition. Full details of the player ratings will be issued in time for the opening matches.
- 8) At the group stages, any team receiving a walk-over or having a match conceded to it, will be awarded 2 points. The team will also receive either a) a number of game points, equal to the average number of game points scored (including handicap points) throughout the teams' other group games, less that of their opponents, or b) 1 game point, whichever is the higher.

- 9) Where a team plays with only 2 players, each of the three unplayed sets shall be awarded 44-34 in favour of the team with 3 players.
(This award effectively serves as a 30 point penalty against the team turning up with 2 players)
- 10) In the event of a tied match at the knock-out stage, the number of sets won on the night (scores to include handicaps) will determine the winner. In the event that sets are all square, the team that wins the final point of the match will be the winner.

Group tables will be updated and uploaded onto the CLTTL website at the end of each week. No further information will be given by the cup secretary, relating to placings / team statistics, until the group matches are complete. Information given at all stages of the competition will rely on prompt return of completed scoresheets. These can be e-mailed to the cup secretary on self-totalling sheets provided, or by scanning or photo. Please ensure that all scoresheets are returned including those throughout the knock-out stages. Results will not be registered until a scoresheet is received.

Finally, in the interest of fairness to all teams taking part, all group fixtures should be completed, irrespective of a team's position in a group. In the event a team has no option but to concede a group fixture, the cup secretary must be notified at the earliest opportunity.

Please note also that the dates for the groups and rounds cannot be altered, so matches must be played in the allotted weeks. The only exception is that group matches may be rescheduled for the free week if there is no other option.

Tony Lee