



**THE WELSH RUGBY UNION NATIONAL LEAGUE RULES 2011/2012**

**1. Description:**

The Competition shall be called:-

- i) In respect of the Premier Division “The Principality Premiership”
- ii) In respect of Divisions 1 to 7 “The SWALEC National Leagues”

**2. Interpretation:**

For the purposes of this competition, the following terms have the meaning assigned to them:

- **THE UNION** means the Welsh Rugby Union Limited.
  - **THE REGULATORY COMMITTEE** means the Committee appointed by the Board of Directors in accordance with the provisions contained in the Articles of Association of the Welsh Rugby Union Limited (the “Articles”)
- CLUB** means the Club being a member of the Union only and does not include Affiliated Organisations (as defined in the Articles) or other entity which may be admitted to membership of the Union.
- **PREMIER DIVISION CRITERIA** means the Licence criteria for entry into and prerequisite to remaining in the Premier Division as set out on the Annexure I to these League Rules
  - **DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS** means the disciplinary regulations approved by the Board of Directors of the Union for Season 2011/2012

All other defined terms must be interpreted in accordance with the Memorandum and the Articles of Association of the Welsh Rugby Union Limited.

**3. Form**

The League **comprises** 25 Divisions formed as follows:

<i>Premier Division</i>	-	<i>14 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 1 East</i>	-	<i>12 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 1 West</i>	-	<i>12 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 2 East</i>	-	<i>12 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 2 West</i>	-	<i>12 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 3 East</i>	-	<i>12 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 3 South East</i>	-	<i>12 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 3 South West</i>	-	<i>12 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 3 West</i>	-	<i>12 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 4 East</i>	-	<i>12 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 4 South East</i>	-	<i>12 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 4 South West</i>	-	<i>12 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 4 West</i>	-	<i>12 Clubs</i>



<i>Division 5 East</i>	-	<i>14 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 5 South East</i>	-	<i>13 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 5 South Central</i>	-	<i>12 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 5 South West</i>	-	<i>12 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 5 West</i>	-	<i>12 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 6 East</i>	-	<i>12 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 6 Central</i>	-	<i>12 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 6 West</i>	-	<i>11 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 7</i>	-	<i>14 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 1 North</i>	-	<i>10 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 2 North</i>	-	<i>12 Clubs</i>
<i>Division 3 North</i>	-	<i>12 Clubs</i>

<b>Division</b>	<b>Promotion and relegation at the end of 2011/2012</b>	<b>Number of Clubs in Division 2012/2013</b>
Premier	<p>To play in the Premier Division in the 2012/2013 season a Club must have been granted by the WRU an A licence, signed commitment to the Premiership Participation Agreement, and have qualified by virtue of a meritocracy criterion. Details of the A licence and the meritocracy criterion are set out in Annexure 1 hereto. The Clubs that fail to attain an A Licence or do not qualify by virtue of the meritocracy criterion will be relegated from the Premier Division to the Championship at the end of the 2011/2012 season.</p> <p>At the end of the 2011/2012 season the Champion Club of the Premier Division will be determined by a series of two Play Off matches details of which are set out in Annexure 3.</p> <p>The 6 Clubs that will participate in the British and Irish Cup competition in the 2012/2013 season must hold an A Licence and be part of the Premier Division in the 2012/2013 season. Five of</p>	Up to 10 Clubs

	<p>these Clubs will be the five highest placed Clubs in the Premier Division at the end of the 2011/2012 season with A Licences and who are part of the Premier Division in the 2012/2013 season. The 6th Club to play in the British and Irish Cup in 2012/2013 will also need to hold an A Licence and be part of the Premier Division in the 2012/2013 season and will qualify through the scheme of play off matches set out in Annexure 3 hereto.</p>	
Championship	<p>This Division in 2012/2013 will comprise the Clubs relegated from the Premier Division at the end of the 2011/2012 season together with up to 10 Clubs promoted from Division 1 East (5 in total) and Division 1 West (5 in total) . The Clubs to be promoted from Division 1 East and Division 1 West at the end of the 2011/2012 season will be determined in accordance with the meritocracy criterion that is set out in Annexure 2 hereto.</p>	14 Clubs
Division 1 East and 1 West	<p>At the end of the 2011/2012 season up to 10 Clubs from Division 1 East (5 in total) and Division 1 West (5 in total) will be promoted to the Championship in 2012/2013. The criterion to determine whether a Club will be promoted to play in the Championship in the 2012/2013 season is set out in Annexure 2 hereto.</p> <p>There will be no relegation from Division 1 East and Division 1 West at the end of the 2011/2012 season unless a Club fails to fulfil its fixtures and is relegated by way of penalty for that failure.</p>	12 Clubs in each Division. (24 Clubs)
Division 2 East and 2 West	<p>The top 4 Clubs in the Divisions 2 East, RGC1404 and the top 5 Clubs in Division 2 West will be promoted to either Division 1 East or Division 1 West at the end of the 2011/2012 season.</p>	12 Clubs in each Division (24 Clubs)

	<p>There will be no relegation from Division 2 East and Division 2 West at the end of the 2011/2012 season unless a Club fails to fulfil its fixtures and is relegated by way of penalty.</p>	
<p>Division 3 East, 3 South East, 3 South West and 3 West</p>	<p>The top 2 Clubs in Divisions 3 East, 3 South East, 3 South West and 3 West will be promoted to one of the Divisions 2 at the end of the 2011/2012 season together with the 1 Club that finishes 3<sup>rd</sup> in those 4 Divisions that has the best playing record.</p> <p>To determine which of the 3<sup>rd</sup> placed Clubs in the 4 Divisions has the best playing record in the season the following matters will be compared in order of priority:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The number of League points gained.</li> <li>ii. Where the number of League points is equal the number of wins achieved.</li> <li>iii. Where i and ii above are equal the number of tries scored by a Club in the League season.</li> </ol> <p>If the best 3<sup>rd</sup> placed Club cannot be determined by this method, or Divisional numbers of Clubs are different, the number of matches played by a Club will be divided into the total number of League points gained by it to give a ratio. The Club with the highest ratio will be promoted.</p> <p>There will be no relegation from any of the Divisions 3 at the end of the 2011/2012 season unless a Club fails to fulfil its fixtures and is relegated by way of penalty.</p>	<p>12 Clubs in each Division. (48 Clubs)</p>
<p>Division 4 East, 4 South East, 4 South West and 4 West</p>	<p>The top 2 Clubs in each Divisions 4, 4 East, 4 South East, 4 South West and 4 West will be promoted to one</p>	<p>12 Clubs in each Division. Clubs will be distributed amongst 4 Divisions at Division 4 level (aligned as far</p>

	<p>of the Divisions 3 at the end of the 2011/2012 season together with 1 of the 4 Clubs that finish 3<sup>rd</sup> in those Divisions that has the best playing record.</p> <p>To determine which of the 3<sup>rd</sup> placed Clubs in the 4 Divisions has the best playing record in the season the following matters will be compared in order of priority:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The number of League points gained.</li> <li>ii. Where the number of League points gained is equal the number of wins achieved.</li> <li>iii. Where i and ii above are equal the number of tries scored by a Club in the League season.</li> </ol> <p>If the best 3<sup>rd</sup> placed Club cannot be determined by this method, or Divisional numbers of Clubs are different, then the number of matches played by a Club will be divided into the total number of League points gained by it to give a ratio. The Club with the highest ratio will be promoted.</p> <p>There will be no relegation from any of the Divisions 4 at the end of the season unless a Club fails to fulfil its fixtures and is relegated by way of penalty.</p>	<p>as possible on a Regional basis). (48 Clubs)</p>
<p>Division 5 East, 5 South East, 5 South Central, 5 South West and 5 West</p>	<p>The top Clubs in each Divisions 5, 5 East, 5 South East, 5 South Central, 5 South West and 5 West will be promoted to Division 4 at the end of the 2011/2012 season together with the 4 Clubs that finish in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in those 5 Divisions that have the best playing records.</p> <p>As the number of Clubs in the 5 Divisions 5 vary to determine which of the 4 2<sup>nd</sup> placed Clubs have the best playing</p>	<p>12 Clubs in each Division. (60 Clubs)</p>

	<p>records the League points that they have gained will be divided by the number of League matches that they have played to give a ratio. The Clubs with the highest ratio will be promoted. If 2 or more Clubs have the same ratio lots will be drawn to decide which Clubs are promoted to Division 4 at the end of the 2011/2012 season.</p> <p>There will be no relegation from any of the Divisions 5 at the end of the season unless a Club fails to fulfil its fixtures and is relegated by way of penalty.</p>	
<p>Division 6 East, 6 Central and 6 West</p>	<p>The top 2 Clubs in each Division 6, 6 East, 6 Central and 6 West will be promoted to one of the Divisions 5 at the end of the 2011/2012 season.</p> <p>There will be no relegation from any of the Divisions 6 at the end of the season unless a Club fails to fulfil its fixtures and is relegated by way of penalty.</p>	<p>12 Clubs in each division (36 Clubs)</p>
<p>Division 7</p>	<p>In this Division in Stage 1 of the season the 14 clubs will play each other on a Home or Away basis. When each Club in the Division has played these 13 fixtures the top 7 clubs in the Division will form Group 1 and the bottom 7 Clubs in the Division will form Group 2. In Stage 2 of the season the Clubs in Group 1 will play each other and the Clubs in Group 2 will play each other. These Group matches will be played on a Home or Away basis with the venues being reversed from the fixtures in the Division played in Stage 1. At the end of Stage 2 the top 5 Clubs in Group 1 will be promoted to play in one of the Divisions 6 in the 2012/2013 season.</p> <p>To decide the 6<sup>th</sup> Club to be promoted from Division 7 to the Divisions 6 at the end of</p>	<p>12 Clubs</p>



	<p>the 2011/2012 season the Clubs that finish the 2011/2012 season in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> places in Group 1 of Division 7 will play off with the Clubs that finish the season as the top Club and 2<sup>nd</sup> placed Club in Group 2. These play off matches will be played as follows:</p> <p>Play Off 1 – 6<sup>th</sup> place Club from Group 1 v 2<sup>nd</sup> place Club from Group 2.          Play Off 2 – 7<sup>th</sup> place Club from Group 1 v 1<sup>st</sup> place Club from Group 2.</p> <p>Play Off matches 1 and 2 will be played at the Home Grounds of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Clubs in Group 1.</p> <p>Play Off 3 – Winner of Play Off 1 v Winner Play Off 2. The WRU will determine the venue for Play Off 3. The Club that wins Play Off 3 will be the 6<sup>th</sup> Club to be promoted from Division 7 to one of the Divisions 6 at the end of the 2011/2012 season.</p> <p>At the end of the 2011/2012 season up to 6 District Clubs will be elevated from the District Leagues to play in Division 7 in the 2012/2013 season. These District Clubs will be selected by the WRU after consultation with the Secretaries of the Districts District Unions.</p> <p>There will be no relegation from Division 7 at the end of the 2011/2012 season unless a Club fails to fulfil its fixtures and is relegated to the Districts League appropriate to their District membership by way of penalty.</p>	
Division 1 North	The Club that tops Division 1 North at the end of the 2011/2012 season will be the Divisional Champion Club and will be declared the Champion Club of North Wales.	10 Clubs



	<p>The Club that finishes in 10<sup>th</sup> place in the Division at the end of the 2011/2012 season will be relegated to Division 2 North.</p> <p>The Club that finishes in 9<sup>th</sup> place in the Division at the end of the season will play in a play off with the Club that finishes the 2011/12 season in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Division 2 North and the winner of this play off will take the place in Division 1 North in the 2012/2013 season.</p>	
Division 2 North	<p>The Club that finishes in 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Division at the end of the 2011/2012 season will be promoted to Division 1 North.</p> <p>The Club that finishes in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Division will play in a play off match with the Club that finishes in 9<sup>th</sup> place in Division 1 North and the winner of this play off match will take the place in Division 1 North in the 2012/2013 season.</p> <p>The Club that finishes in 10<sup>th</sup> place in the Division at the end of the 2011/2012 season will be relegated to Division 3 North.</p> <p>The Club that finishes in 9<sup>th</sup> place in the Division at the end of the 2011/2012 season will play in a play off match with the Club that finishes the 2011/2012 season in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Division 3 North and the winner will take the place in Division 2 North in the 2012/2013 season.</p>	12 Clubs
Division 3 North	<p>The Club that finishes in 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Division at the end of the 2011/2012 season will be promoted to Division 2 North.</p> <p>The Club that finishes in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Division at the end of the season will play in a</p>	12 Clubs



	<p>play off match with the Club that finishes in the 2011/2012 season in 9<sup>th</sup> place in Division 2 North and the winner will take the place in Division 2 North in the 2012/2013 season.</p> <p>There will be no relegation from Division 3 North at the end of the 2011/2012 season.</p>	
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Subject to the Regulatory Committee having a discretion to deal with cases on their merits if a WRU Club in the Premier Division, Divisions 1, 2, 3 or 4 withdraws from the National League either before the 2011/2012 Season or during that Season, or if a Club in those Divisions fails to complete its League programme, that Club would be relegated to Division 5 Level for the 2012 / 2013 Season. In such a case, to maintain the balance of Clubs in the Divisions of the National League, one additional Club to the number described earlier in rule 3 will be promoted for the 2012 / 2013 Season from the Division which is two below the Division from which the Club withdrew with consequential adjustments in the Divisions below that.

Subject to the Regulatory Committee having a discretion to deal with cases on their merits if a full WRU Club in Division 5 withdraws from the National League or fails to fulfil fixtures in the 2011/2012 season it would be relegated at the end of the Season to Division 6 level. If a District Member Club in Division 5 fails to fulfil its fixtures for 2011/2012 it will be relegated to Division 6 in 2012/2013. If a District Member Club in Division 6 fails to fulfil its fixtures for 2011/2012 it will be relegated to Division 7 in 2012/2013.

**4. Eligibility to Participate**

**a. Clubs**

- (i) The Competition will be restricted to those Clubs who are full members of the Union and in Divisions 5, 6 and 7 and Division 1 North, Division 2 North and Division 3 North only, Clubs which are District Members of the Union, and who conform to the provisions for the time being of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Union and which, taking part therein, must be represented by each Club's First XV.

**b. Players**

- (i) No player may represent a Club in the National League unless he is a registered or dual registered member of that Club, he is on loan to that Club or a permit has been granted for him to play by his parent Club.
- (ii) A player has to be registered in Wales with a Club, a Regional Team or Regional Academy, and his registration must be notified to the Union before he is eligible to play for a Club in the National League.
- (iii) All players must be named on the team sheet submitted by the Club to the Match official prior to the match. (see protocol for matches played in Wales)

The team sheet **must** identify any player(s) on permit, dual registration or on loan and their parent Club.



- 4.1.1 A Club may register 2 overseas players who will at any one time be eligible to play in the National League (i.e. if one or both overseas player(s) leave the Club he/ they may be replaced providing the number of overseas players does not exceed 2). In the case of a professional player from outside the EC and who does not have EC workers rights, a licence to employ the player must be obtained by the Club from the UK Border Agency. An application for a licence to employ a professional rugby player has to be supported by the Union. The Union will not support an application for a licence to employ a professional rugby player other than an application made by a Regional Team or a Premier Division Club. The numbers of overseas players which may be registered by Regional Teams is governed by the Participation Agreements between the WRU and the Regional Members.
- 4.1.2 An overseas player is one who is not qualified to play for Wales at the date of registration and who cannot prove to the satisfaction of the WRU that he is entitled to the rights granted under Title III of the EC Treaty or under the EEA or other European Agreement (i.e. a person who has European workers rights).
- 4.1.3 **Any Premier Division Club** registering more than two non Welsh qualified players (being players who at the date of registration are not qualified to take the field of play as a member of a team at senior level to represent Wales in accordance with IRB Regulation 8.1), **will forfeit £15,000** from their WRU Distribution monies for every additional non Welsh qualified registered player in the squad and will fail the A Licence Criterion to participate in the Premier Division.
- 4.2. **Clubs in the Premier Division** which run only one senior team will be limited to registering up to 32 players who will be eligible to play for the Club in National League Matches. Clubs in the Premier Division which run two or more senior teams, the second team which plays at least 16 matches a Season, will be allowed to register more than 32 players who will be eligible to play in the National League. Failure to fulfil 16 second team matches for Clubs that register more than 32 players will result in the Club being penalised.
- 4.3. A Player will be ineligible to play for a Club in any National League fixture if he transfers, or is registered, after 31<sup>st</sup> January in any season, unless such a player is:
- A player, registered with that Club's Youth team, who has attained the age of 18 and is subsequently registered as a Senior player with that Club.
  - A player who is subject to a permanent residential relocation from another area where extensive travel (in excess of 100 miles round trip) precludes the player continuing to play for his former Club (**applies to Divisions 1 –7 only**). **Before such a player may play in WRU Competitions the player's registration must be sanctioned by the Union's Regulatory Committee.**
  - A player not previously registered with any other rugby Club. **Before such a player may play in WRU Competitions the player's registration must be sanctioned by the Union's Regulatory Committee.**
- NB. Player Registration forms must be lodged with the Rugby Operations Section of the Welsh Rugby Union Ltd by midnight on the 31<sup>st</sup> January or first business day after the 31<sup>st</sup> January if it is a weekend day. Otherwise, although the registration will be processed, the player will not be eligible to play in National League and/ or SWALEC Cup, Plate or Bowl matches for the Club for the remainder of the season.
- 4.4. A player who transfers in the period between the end of the previous season and 31<sup>st</sup> January will be eligible to play for his new Club in National League matches, provided the properly completed player transfer and registration form is received within the Union's Operations Section, as follows:-



- (i) At least 2 days prior to the match kick off time if the player has not been registered with another Club or, if transferring from another Club, the registration / transfer form has been countersigned by his previous Club. **For avoidance of doubt, the deadline to allow a player to play in a Saturday fixture is 12 noon on the Thursday prior to the fixture; for a Wednesday fixture the deadline is 12 noon on the Monday prior to a fixture and so on.**
- (ii) At least 7 days prior to the match kick off time if the player is transferring from another Club and the registration / transfer form has not been countersigned by his previous Club and that Club has been given the opportunity to countersign the form (Clause 3 c(ii) Player Registration and Transfer Regulations)

4.5. **Player Loan scheme**

Details of the Player Loan scheme are outlined in Regulation 6 of the Player Registration and Transfer Regulations.

4.6. **Player Permits**

The Player Permit Scheme will operate as follows:

4.6.1 Subject to paragraph 4.6.2, in any National League match:-

- (i) **With the exception of Clubs in the Premier Division a Club may play up to a maximum of 4 players on permit (in any position) in a League match.**
- (ii) **Clubs in the Premier Division may have a maximum of 22 permit players in a League match.**
- (iii) A player with a Regional Team may only play on permit for a Premier Division Club in a League match.
- (iv) No overseas players (as defined in paragraph 4.1.2 above) may play on permit unless that player is registered with a Regional Team and then only play for a Premier Division Club.
- (v) A player who is registered with a **Regional Academy** may play on permit for a Club in any Division. The permits may be granted only by the Regional Performance Manager, or nominated deputy, and lodged with the Union's Fixtures and Competitions Manager before the match takes place.
- (vi) Permits may be obtained as stipulated in and subject to the restrictions contained in the following table:-

Division	Clubs from where permits may be obtained
Premier Division	Regional Teams (no limit) Regional Academy (no limit) Premier Division Club (no limit) Divisions 1 to 7 ( no limit) <b>(OVERALL MAXIMUM OF 22 PERMIT PLAYERS PER MATCH)</b>



Division 1	Regional Academy (max 4) Premier Division (max 4) Divisions 1 to 7 (max 4) District Member Clubs (max 4) (OVERALL MAXIMUM OF 4 PERMIT PLAYERS PER MATCH)
Division 2	Regional Academy (max 4) Divisions 1 to 7 (max 4) District Member Clubs (max 4) (OVERALL MAXIMUM OF 4 PERMIT PLAYERS PER MATCH)
Division 3	Regional Academy (max 4) Divisions 1 to 7 (max 4) District Member Clubs (max 4) (OVERALL MAXIMUM OF 4 PERMIT PLAYERS PER MATCH)
Division 4, Division 1 North and Division 2 North	Regional Academy (max 4) Divisions 1 to 7 (max 4) District Member Clubs (max 4) (OVERALL MAXIMUM OF 4 PERMIT PLAYERS PER MATCH)
Division 5	Regional Academy (max 4) Divisions 1 to 7 (max 4) District Member Clubs (max 4) (OVERALL MAXIMUM OF 4 PERMIT PLAYERS PER MATCH)
Division 6, 7 and Division 3 North	Regional Academy (max 4) Divisions 1 to 7 (max 4) District Member Clubs (max 4) (OVERALL MAXIMUM OF 4 PERMIT PLAYERS PER MATCH)

(vii) **A permit must be sought for each match in which a player plays and such permit may be granted for a match at any time in the season. Any permit issued must be made in writing (via fax, posted letter or email), by both the Club with which the player is registered, and the Club with which he is to play on permit and lodged with the Union before the match takes place. In exceptional circumstances, where a permit is agreed during WRU office closure hours (e.g. a Saturday), the permit may be lodged by telephoning 02920 822407 or 02920 822404 and leaving a voicemail message. The written confirmation must be sent to the Union as soon as possible after lodging the voicemail message.**

(viii) A Permit is a letter of permission written by an Official of the Club with which the player is registered. All permit requests will be acknowledged in writing by the Union. (see *Player Registration and Transfer Regulations*)

(ix) Team sheets submitted to the match official prior to the start of a match must identify players on permit, loan or dual registration and their parent Club.

4.6.2 In relation to Premiership games no player registered to a Regional Organisation or a Regional Academy shall be allowed to play in a play off match for a Premier Division Club on permit unless that player has played for that Premier Division Club at least 5 times (at least 45 minutes on the field in each match) in League matches that season or the Regulatory Committee has granted specific permission for the player to play in a Play Off match.



#### 4.7 **Dual Registration scheme**

Details of the Dual Registration scheme are outlined in Regulation 8 of the Player Registration and Transfer Regulations.

#### 4.8 **Replacements**

**In the Premier Division** up to 7 replacements may be named for any National League fixture provided, of the 22 named players and replacements, there must be 5 (five) suitably trained and experienced players who can play in the front row to ensure that on the first occasion that a replacement hooker is required and, on the first occasion that a replacement prop forward is required, the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums.

**In Division 1** (not Division 1 North) up to 5 replacements may be named for any National League fixture provided, of the 20 named players and replacements, there must be five (5) suitably trained and experienced players who can play in the front row to ensure that on the first occasion that a replacement hooker is required and, on the first occasion that a replacement prop forward is required, the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums.

**In Divisions 2 to 7** (and Division 1 North, Division 2 North and Division 3 North) no more than 4 replacements may be named. If a Club does name 4 replacements there must 5 (five) players who are suitably trained and experienced who can play in the front row to ensure that on the first occasion that a replacement hooker is required and, on the first occasion that a replacement prop forward is required, the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums.

A Club may play without any named replacements. If that Club names 15 players only there is no need to name more than three (3) suitably trained and experienced front row players.

For clarification, the Laws of the Game (3.5) state:-

**Each player in the front row and any potential replacement(s) must be suitably trained and experienced.**

**When 16, 17 or 18 players are nominated in a team there must be four players who can play in the front row.**

**When 19, 20, 21 or 22 players are nominated in a team there must be five (5) players who can play in the front row to ensure that on the first occasion that a replacement hooker is required and, on the first occasion that a replacement prop forward is required, the team can continue to play safely with contested scrums.**

**The replacement of a front row forward must come from suitably trained and experienced players who started the match or from the nominated replacements.**

**If after a front row player has been sent off or during the time a front row player is temporarily suspended, and there are no further front row players available from the nominated team, then uncontested scrums will be ordered. It is not the responsibility of the match official to determine the suitability of trained front row replacements nor their availability, as this is a team responsibility.**



To avoid confusion and to make everyone aware of the rules relating to the number of substitutes that can be used, please see the following examples, relating to IRB Law 3 (Number of Players) and WRU National League Rules.

- (a) If Team A have only fifteen players (or less) available and they have three suitably trained front row forwards, then the match will start with contested scrums.
- (b) If Team A has fifteen players (or less) and do not have three suitably trained players to play in the front row, then the match will start with uncontested scrums. Obviously Team A do not have any replacements.
- (c) If Team A turn up with only three suitably trained front row forwards and Team B turn up with four suitably trained front row forwards, then the match will start with contested scrums. Team A are not entitled to any substitutes, but Team B will be able to have two additional replacements (i.e. total of three replacements).
- (d) If Team A turn up with less than three suitably trained front row forwards and Team B have five suitably trained front row forwards, either on the field or on the replacements bench, then Team A are not entitled to any substitutes and Team B will be entitled to the full complement of replacements. The match will start with uncontested scrums.

In all cases, in relation to Team B, for them to have the full benefit of the replacements bench, they must start with the required number of suitably trained front row players and also the ability of replacing a front row forward with a nominated suitably trained front row replacement.

All suitably trained front row players must be highlighted on the official team sheet prior to the match.

If a match goes to uncontested scrums the relevant details are to be forwarded by the Match Official to the Competitions and Fixtures Manager at the Welsh Rugby Union (see Clause 9b below)

### **AT ALL TIMES SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT.**

In relation to uncontested scrums IRB Law 20.1 (f) (U19 Variations) defines:

“An uncontested scrum is the same as a normal scrum, except that the teams do not compete for the ball, the team throwing in the ball must win it, and neither team is allowed to push.”

The above allows the Number 8 to pick up from the base of the scrum.

## **5. Entry Conditions**

All Clubs participating in the National League shall conform with:-

- a. the rules contained herein
- b. the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Union, Regulations and Resolutions of the Board of the Union



- c. the Bye Laws, Resolutions and Regulations relating to the Game of the International Rugby Board, and
- d. the Laws of the Game

## 6. Responsibility for Organisation

- (i) All matches in every Division of the National League will be under the control of the Union.
- (ii) The Regulatory Committee will deal with all matters relating to the rules for the Premier Division and Divisions 1 to 7 of the National League and Division 1 North, Division 2 North and Division 3 North.

## 7. Finance

In the normal National League programme, all gate receipts will be retained by the Home side and match expenses to the match official(s) being claimed in the normal way. The Away side will be responsible for meeting its travelling expenses subject to the Board of Directors authorising the payment of £2.10 per mile expenses incurred in a round journey in excess of 60 miles.

The Regulatory Committee will be responsible for the apportionment of money attributed to the National League on the following basis:-

- a. Full member clubs in season 2010/2011 will receive the basic core grant and where appropriate, a variable development grant. Clubs that become full member clubs in 2011 will be advised of the level of their grant from the Union by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011. Prize money will be determined by the Club's League position.
- b. The Prize money to be paid to the Champion Club and the runner up Club in all Divisions 1 to 7 and Division 1 North, Division 2 North and Division 3 North will be  
  
Champion Club - £1,000  
Runner up Club - £ 500.
- c. The reimbursement of allowable travel expenses of participating Clubs will be undertaken.

## 8. Match Programmes

Receipts from separate programme sales may be retained by the Home Club. Similarly, any loss sustained in the production of a programme shall be borne by the Home Club.

## 9. General Rules

- a. All National League matches must be played and each Club must complete its National League programme. In the event that a National League match is not played the matter will be reported to the Regulatory Committee who will conduct an inquiry to establish why the match was not played. **Where a match does not take place it is the responsibility of the Honorary Secretary of each Club to inform, within 4 working days, the Union's Fixtures and Competitions Manager, in writing, of the reasons for the**



**postponement.** If the Regulatory Committee is not satisfied with the explanation of the Club or Clubs concerned it may apply in its absolute discretion whatever sanction it deems appropriate. Sanctions available to the Regulatory Committee include but are not limited to the deduction of League points, the imposition of a fine and / or the Club's League points total may be expunged and/or expulsion from the National League.

b. **Passive scrums**

i) **For all divisions other than the Premier Division**

No game may be postponed because of the lack of suitably trained/experienced front row forwards. The game must be played on the due date with uncontested scrums. If prior to any match a Club becomes aware that it will be unable to field for that match a sufficient number of suitably trained/experienced front row forwards it shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, notify the opposing club and match officials that it will elect to take uncontested scrums during that match. Following the match an enquiry shall be undertaken by the Regulatory Committee to consider the conduct of the Club and the reason for uncontested scrums and to consider whether any sanction is appropriate. The Regulatory Committee may apply any sanction it deems fit if not satisfied with the club's explanation.

ii) **For the Premier Division**

If a club postpones a match because of the lack of suitably trained/experienced front row forwards the Regulatory Committee will conduct an inquiry into the postponement. It shall be a matter for the Club which caused the match to be postponed to justify its decision. The Regulatory Committee may apply any sanction it deems fit if not satisfied with the Club's explanation.

iii) **For all Divisions**

If during the course of a match the team elects to take uncontested scrums the matter will be reported to the Regulatory Committee. The Regulatory Committee may conduct a post match inquiry into why passive scrums had been necessary during a match. It shall be a matter for the Club which opted for passive/uncontested scrums to explain to the inquiry why it did so. The Regulatory Committee may apply any sanction it deems fit if not satisfied with the Club's explanation.

c. **Declaration of winners.** Winners of matches will be teams which have scored the greater number of points at the end of each match and that, for the avoidance of doubt and in compliance with the Laws of the Game (Law 6.A.11), the Referee will be the final arbiter as to the score of each League match. League points awarded are as follows:-

Win	-	4 points
Draw	-	2 points
Defeat	-	0 points
Bonus Points	-	1 point for a team scoring 4 or more tries



1 point for a team losing by 7 points or less

- d. **National League placings** will be decided on the basis of League points gained in the season. Where teams have gained equal numbers of League points, the team with the most wins shall be given preference. If the number of wins is equal then the Club having recorded the most tries in the Season shall be given preference. If the number of tries is equal the points 'for' shall be divided by the points 'against' and the team with the highest factor shall be declared to have the better record.
- e. **Duration of play** – 80 minutes each match (40 minutes each half) plus any time permitted by the Match Official for delays (Laws of the Game – Law 5). At half time an interval of not more than 10 minutes is allowed.
- f. **Fixture Arrangements.** National League matches must be played on the dates allocated unless otherwise previously agreed by the Regulatory Committee. These will be decided by the Regulatory Committee and circulated to the Clubs as soon as practicable. The match will take place on the home Club's first pitch or on a suitable alternative.
- g. **Notification of Results.** The appointed Match Official will notify the Union of the result of each match by completing a result card which should be signed by an official of each Club and sent to the Union's Competitions and Fixtures Manager within 4 postal delivery days of the match having been played. Each notification must be accompanied by team lists, which must be completed by officials of each team and handed to the match official prior to the kick off.
- h. **Postponed, rearranged and abandoned matches**
- (i) Postponed or Rearranged Matches

**National League fixtures must be played on the allocated dates unless a match is postponed because of ground or weather conditions or the Clubs concerned have mutually agreed to the postponement and have received the prior consent of the Union to the rearrangement. Consent to postpone fixtures in such circumstances will not be given if sought less than seven (7) days prior to the fixture. Where Clubs have received the consent of the Union to postpone a fixture, then that fixture must be played, where practicable, within 21 days of the postponement. If the Clubs cannot agree on an alternative date, within 21 days, the Union will determine the date of the rearranged fixture and will, where practicable, give the Clubs 7 days' notice of the rearranged date.**

If the ground of the Home Club is not fit because of weather or ground conditions, or for any other reason unavailable and the away fixture has not yet been played Clubs should endeavour to switch the venue to the Away Club so that the fixture is played on that date.

**Any postponed National League fixture must be rearranged by the Clubs and the date of the rearrangement notified to the Union's Fixtures and Competitions Manager within 21 days of the postponement. If details of the rearrangement are not supplied by the due date then the Union will determine the date on which the rearranged fixture will be played. Where**



practicable, the Clubs will be given 7 days' notice of the rearranged date.

**Both Clubs must notify the Union's Fixtures and Competitions Manager, in writing, of the new fixture date at least 4 working days prior to the match being played.**

Any dispute in respect of such cancellation, postponement or rearrangement shall be immediately referred to the Regulatory Committee.

Postponed SWALEC Cup, Plate and Bowl matches will take precedence over National League matches when postponed or abandoned matches are rearranged.

Where Clubs cannot agree on the date of a rearranged fixture the Union will determine the new date. Clubs will be given, where practicable, at least 7 days notice of that date.

When ground or weather conditions demand, and if requested to do so, an opportunity **must** be given to an official representative of the visiting Club, a WRU Match Official living locally of similar standing to the appointed match official or an Officer of the Union to view the situation in sufficient time to allow matches to be postponed to prevent unnecessary travelling. Clubs should undertake ground inspections no earlier than 3 hours before the scheduled kick off time except in cases where an earlier inspection is required to prevent an Away Club undertaking a long journey or in cases where the match official is travelling from a long distance. **Should the Clubs disagree on the condition of the ground, the match will not be played.** The match official appointed by the Union will report on the matter and that report will be considered by the Regulatory Committee.

(ii) Abandoned Matches

All matches must be played to full time. The match official is to be the sole judge of the amount of time played. If a match is abandoned then both Clubs' Honorary Secretaries must notify the Union of the fact in writing within 4 postal delivery days of the abandonment.

**If both Clubs agree then the Union may permit the score, at the time of the abandonment, to stand. Such permission to be granted by the Regulatory Committee.**

**Where such an agreement is not reached then:-**

All such matches may be played at the original venue or at a venue determined by the Home Club. Any National League fixture which has been abandoned must be rearranged by the Clubs and the date of the rearrangement notified to the Union's Fixtures and Competitions Manager within 21 days of the original date. If details of the rearrangement are not supplied by the due date then the Union will determine the date on which the rearranged fixture will be played. Where practicable, the Clubs will be given 7 days' notice of the rearranged date. **Both Clubs must notify the Union's Fixtures and Competitions Manager in writing, of the new fixture date at least 4 working days prior to the match being played.**



i. Protests and Disputes

Protests or disputes arising out of the National League Competition or the rules relating thereto must be made in writing to the Group Chief Executive of the Union and accompanied by a fee of £100.00 which may or may not be refunded. No protest or dispute relating to matches played in the Competition will be entertained if made more than **10 days** after the match in question has taken place. The Regulatory Committee shall have discretion to investigate any breach of rules at any time and to take such action as it shall deem appropriate.

Any Club dissatisfied with a decision of the Regulatory Committee shall have the right to appeal to a Sub Committee appointed by the Board of Directors provided that the Club's appeal is lodged in writing, with the Group Chief Executive of the Union within 14 days of the Regulatory Committee's decision being notified, accompanied by a fee of £100 which may or may not be returned. If the decision is given orally, the period of 14 days shall run from the date of the oral decision but otherwise from the date of receipt in writing by the Hon Secretary of the Club,

j. Penalties

- a. The Regulatory Committee may apply any appropriate sanction it deems fit to any Club without limitation, found to be in default, or failing to comply with the rules of the National League.
- b. Where any Club has been found to have included an ineligible player(s) that is a player who is not registered with a Club or a player whose name does not appear on the team sheet submitted by the Club in a National League match, the Regulatory Committee shall have the power to penalise the offending side further by the loss of any league points and scores it may have accrued during the match, and expunge the result from the League table.

Before taking action under (a) or (b) above the Club will be offered the benefits of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Union.

- c. An official representative of both home and visiting teams will hand to the match official a team and replacement sheet prior to the kick off. Only those players named on this list will be eligible to play in the match. An official representative of each Club has the right to examine their opponent's team list before the match. A Club wishing to make an objection will bring it to the notice of the match official who will record the same. The Club raising the objection will bring it to the notice of the Union within 10 days of the match taking place, accompanied by a deposit of £100.00 which may, or may not be returned. The match official will also bring the matter to the notice of the Union in writing.

k. Match Officials

Match Officials shall be appointed by the Union's National Referee Manager for all matches.



i. Kick Off

The time of the kick off shall be in accordance with the Union Resolution 15, however, it is recommended that it is standardised at 2.30pm for Saturday matches for Divisions 1 to 7 while Premier Division matches will kick off at times by agreement between the Clubs the Union and the Broadcasting Authorities giving primary consideration to Commercial/Broadcast agreements.

m. Adjudication

The Regulatory Committee shall have discretion in dealing with any protest or dispute relating to the National League, whether or not provided for in this scheme or rules.



## Annexure 1

### Criteria for Entry and Participation in the Premier Division with effect from August 2011.

- 1.1. In the 2011/2012 season there will be 14 Clubs in the Premier Division. These Clubs will have qualified to play in the Division in the 2011/2012 season in accordance with the Union's National League rules for the 2010/2011 season.
- 1.2. To play in the Premier Division in season 2012/2013 a Club must have applied for and met the criteria to hold an A Licence by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011.
- 1.3. Details of A and B licences are set out below in Appendix A hereto
- 1.4. Selection and entry to the Premier Division at the end of the 2011/2012 season shall be determined by way of A Licence Criteria, signing and commitment to a Premiership Participation Agreement, and meritocracy formulae as referenced within the League rules.
- 2.1. If during the course of the 2011/2012 season a Club in the Premier Division fails to maintain the criteria that allowed it entry to the Premier Division in that season that Club will not receive:
  - (a) funding from the Union nor
  - (b) an allocation of tickets for rugby International matchesfrom the time that the club fails to satisfy the Entry/Participation criteria to the Premier Division until such time as the club again satisfies that criteria in the case of (a) and then on a pro rata basis and in the case of (b) if the criteria is not satisfied by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 for all matches in the 6 Nations Tournament in 2012.
- 2.2. For the avoidance of doubt:-
  - 2.2.1. For a Club to gain a B licence all four sections of the Entry/Participation criteria to the Premier Division must be satisfied and the number of points that must be obtained under section two (Facilities) shall be 70 points.
  - 2.2.2. The Clubs that wish to play in the British and Irish Cup in 2012/2013 must obtain an A licence and to do so the Ground Facilities criteria must be attained in all areas but will not be points based.
  - 2.2.3. Works which have not been completed by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011 for any reason whatsoever shall be not be considered in determining whether or not the criteria for an A or a B licence has been obtained.
- 3.1. All inspections of facilities will be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011. **No re-inspections will be undertaken after 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011.**
- 3.2. Existing Premier Division Clubs will be re-audited between 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011.
- 3.3. The results of the audits will be sent to the individual Clubs by 11<sup>th</sup> September 2011 and a list of those Clubs who have passed the criteria will be published to all member Clubs of the Union by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011. However, should there be a requirement to convene a meeting of the Appeals Panel, the notification date of the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2011 may be extended:



4. "Entry/Participation Criteria to the Premier Division" means the document which is appears as Appendix "A" hereto.
5. There shall be no further amendments to the League Rules in relation to Divisions below the First Division.
6. This document and the Entry/Participation Criteria to the Premier Division shall form the basis of a formal Participation Agreement to be entered into by all Clubs in the Premier Division which will also form part of the entry/participation criteria.
7. The Premier Division in 2012/2013 will comprise the 10 Clubs who have met the entry/participation criteria as at the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011.

This will include meritocracy as determined in accordance with the criterion as set out below:-

Term: 2005 – 2011 6 Seasons  
 Competition: Domestic League  
 For the avoidance of doubt the determining factor is the total points achieved over the 6 Seasons.

Meritocracy Formula for Season 2005/2006 (16 Team League)

League Position	Points
PL1	20
PL2	19
PL3	18
PL4	17
PL5	16
PL6	15
PL7	14
PL8	13
PL9	12
PL10	11
PL11	10
PL12	9
PL13	8
PL14	7
PL15	6
PL16	5
FD1	5
FD2	4
FD3	3
FD4	2



Meritocracy Formula for Season 2006/2007 to 2010/2011 (14 Team League)

League Position	Points
PL1	20
PL2	19
PL3	18
PL4	17
PL5	16
PL6	15
PL7	14
PL8	13
PL9	12
PL10	11
PL11	10
PL12	9
PL13	8
PL14	7
FD1	7
FD2	6
FD3	5
FD4	4
FD5	3
FD6	2



## Appendix A

### **2011/12 A & B Licence Criteria** **Welsh Rugby Union Limited**

The Premiership Division is fundamental to the sustainability and development of the game in Wales and forms a key platform in the performance and development pathway. The Division has played a proactive role in ensuring that the gap between the amateur and professional game has been bridged to the highest possible standard, allowing players and spectators the opportunity to consistently enjoy high quality rugby.

#### Definition of Licences:

A Licence – Those clubs that have achieved the higher standard both on and off the field. Mandatory for entry/participation in the Premier Division 2012/2013.

B Licence – Those Clubs that achieve the minimum Criteria standard and applies to 2011/2012 season only.

#### Penalties for non-compliance:

Where a Club is found to be not adhering to the criteria relating to the licence it has achieved at the start of the season, it is provided an opportunity to rectify the fault. If the Club does not comply with the criteria, it automatically revokes its current licence, and in the worst case scenario drop to the next Division.

### **SECTION 1: Rugby Performance and Development**

#### Criteria Standard:

A Licence – Clubs aspiring to achieve the A licence will have a Head Coach in place that has successfully completed the WRU Level 4 coaching qualification (or equivalent) as a minimum. In addition, Head Coaches must have registered their interest and intention to enrol on the Level 5/Fellowship by the criteria deadline.

B Licence - Clubs aspiring, or looking to maintain a B Licence must have in place a Head Coach that has successfully completed the WRU/UKCC Level 3 coaching qualification as a minimum. In addition, Head Coaches must be working towards the WRU Level 4 coaching Qualification and registered their intent by the criteria deadline.



### A and B Licence Requirements:

#### Rugby Performance & Development Manual –

The WRU has implemented the introduction of the Rugby Performance Development Manual which contains all policies and procedures implemented by the club in relation to protocols in the following areas:

- Management
- Coaching
- Analysis
- Medical and Injury prevention
- Conditioning and Nutrition

#### Rugby Performance & Development Annual Records –

With support from the WRU throughout the process, all A and B licensed clubs will have in place records that are to be regularly updated by the Rugby management team and monitored by external assessors, to ensure the continued development and welfare of individuals involved with the Club. The records will include the following:

- Current Management structure, role descriptions and clearly defined reporting lines
- Key Performance Indicators for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV team management, coaching and support staff to include CPD programmes
- Coaching plans
- Match analysis records
- Injury & recovery records
- Conditioning Plans
- Fitness test results
- Individual Player Development Plans which will include relevant match limits, for any players selected to a WRU International Pathway Team
- Records of attendance and qualifications achieved at formal and informal coaching courses and seminars

### Monitoring Procedures:

The Annual record keeping is an ongoing process that will require continued monitoring. The general set up and up-keep will be monitored by the Compliance Department, with regular ad-hoc visits to Clubs throughout the season to ensure information is being obtained and completed.

In addition, relevant personnel from the Rugby Performance and Development Dept., may monitor and analyse records, to ensure they are of benefit to the Club and other key stakeholders (Regions, WRU).

There will be 2 key monitoring times, plus ad-hoc reviews.

### Stakeholder Support:

Throughout the season the WRU will continue to hold a variety of seminars relevant to the requirements set out in the criteria i.e. coaching, match officials, and the links between the disciplines, as well as analysis, injury prevention. Attendance at the seminars is compulsory.



In addition, 1<sup>st</sup> XV squad members of each Premiership Club may be required to undertake fitness tests at the NCE, carried out by WRU personnel (at no additional expense to the Clubs). Specific advice and development techniques will then be provided based on the individual results.

The Regions will be required to provide ongoing support to Premiership Clubs in line with the Participation Agreement. By way of example, this is to include, but not be limited to, guidance in relation to coaching, selection, permitting of players and such related advice in line with the WRU Licence Scheme.

The Premiership Clubs are to accept and maximise the support provided by the Regions in line with the Premiership Participation Agreement.

#### Referees:

The WRU will allocate each Premiership Club a Level 3 Referee with a Division 1 or Premiership grade, which they are obliged to accept. The attached referee will be responsible for the dissemination of information relating to the laws of the game and the up-skilling of players/coaches understanding and interpretation.

#### Player Pathway:

Clubs will be required to provide details of all teams run by the Club including Youth, U16's and below. Where Clubs do not currently run Youth and Junior teams, they are required to evidence a clear pathway for players from associated feeder clubs.

Premiership Clubs that do not run Youth or Junior teams will only be allowed to develop such teams in accordance with the WRU regulations for such teams.

### **Section 2: FACILITIES**

The Facilities Audit process for the B licence (applicable to season 2011/2012 only) will be a point's based system, with clubs required to achieve a minimum standard of 70 points.

For those Clubs looking to achieve the A licence, there will be an enhanced standard of facilities that have to be in place to achieve the Criteria requirements.

#### Club Requirements:

##### Security of Tenure:

The club should own its own ground, or provide written proof of security of tenure for a rolling period of 5 years from August 2011 or from their date of entry into the WRU Premiership, whichever is later.

##### Spectator Facilities:

- Each club will need to provide a safety management plan covering areas such as crowd safety, emergency contingency plans and stewarding plans. Venues in excess of 10,000 capacity will be required to provide a ground safety certificate.
- All spectator facilities are to be permanently enclosed.
- A grandstand with a minimum 501 capacity, which can be provided within a maximum of two areas.



- Covered terracing for a minimum capacity of 1,000 spectators.
- Where uncovered terracing is to be considered in addition to the above, there must be a minimum capacity of 1,000.
- On-site parking for at least 200 vehicles, plus team buses, or an agreement must be in place for use of local parking facilities.
- Disabled facilities, including dedicated viewing areas, car parking and toilet facilities.
- Spectator toilets (ratio to attendance).
- Spectator catering facilities, both inside and outside the Clubhouse.
- Clear, audible and competent PA system to all parts of the ground for spectator safety and enjoyment.
- Visible scoreboard

#### General Club Facilities:

- Guaranteed clubhouse and/or facilities complete with dedicated team dining area for all scheduled fixtures.
- Access to the ground for Emergency Services and broadcasters access as and when required.

#### Press, Media & Communication Requirements:

- Floodlighting is to be provided to a minimum lux capacity of 300. For those clubs who intend to be assessed for the A licence, the ability to increase their lux capacity to 500 must be available.
- Television gantry for accommodating television cameras and analysis personnel,
- Designated Press area to include, adequate power points, radio points and ISDN lines or equivalent.
- Access to relevant areas to undertake pre and post match TV, radio and press interviews.
- High quality match day programme.
- Club website updated regularly which includes directions to the ground and relevant news and information about the club.
- The ability to comply with the electronic transfer of information between clubs, themselves and the WRU. This will include, but not be limited to email, fax, telephone/answer phone.
- Dedicated match day hotline, with details of cancellations, team changes, etc.



### Rugby Performance and Development Requirements:

#### General Rugby Facilities:

- Even, full size playing field that obtains/maintains the standard as set in the individual club benchmarking process undertaken in the off season inspection.
- Floodlighting to be available for Club games and training sessions as required.
- Separate medical, physiotherapy & drug testing area, suitably equipped & staffed by qualified personnel at the club ground.

#### Training Facilities:

- A dedicated Team Room, complete with relevant resources to hold briefings, meetings and undertake analysis.
- Guaranteed access to training facilities, which may include an 'all weather' pitch or access to a training pitch away from the main field of play between October and March, and a general training pitch for the duration of the season.
- Access to a gym, which includes a conditioning area.
- An appropriate area within the Club, suitable for pre-hab (injury prevention) work with the players.
- Maintained level of equipment. To include as a minimum, scrummage machines, 10 tackle shields, 10 tackle bags, 10 tackle suits, 5 x ladders, 15 reversible bibs, balls (Webb Ellis), cones and poles

#### Match Day Facilities:

- Dedicated area for both home and away Coaching Staff during play on match days.
- Separate changing facilities at the ground suitable for up to 5 individuals including a minimum of two showers for referees. Additionally, the club must have secure on site parking and a Referee Liaison Officer in place.
- Separate changing facilities for up to 30 members of both the home and away teams at the Club ground.
- Separate analysis gantry/area must be available if TV gantry is being utilised by broadcasters to the maximum capacity set by the Club's Health and Safety personnel.
- Clearly defined and managed technical areas.

### **Section 3: Administration and Finance**

- A Club Management committee with written evidence of clearly defined individual roles and responsibilities.
- Written delegated authority in relation to individuals who attend Premier Division meetings and are required to vote in relation to matters pertaining to the Premier Division.



- A management flow chart for the whole club structure.
- A club constitution.
- An annual operating budget, agreed prior to the commencement of the Season and ring fenced for the sole operation of the Premier Division club.
- A business plan, including cash flow forecasts, for a five year period on confirmation from the WRU of its projected funding level for those five years.
- A capital expenditure plan for a corresponding period of 5 years, Clubs must provide a clear audit trail for such disbursements.
- An agreed repayment plan for all outstanding loans.
- A schedule of current assets and liabilities in line with the Club's audited accounts.
- A sample standard contract and accompanying schedule of all employee contracts including terms and remuneration.
- Compulsory audit of Club accounts accompanied by a signed copy of the previous years audited accounts.
- Sufficient insurance cover, including club (Public Liability), player and coaching risks in accordance with IRB Regulation 23 and in relation to IRB Regulation 9.
- In line with WRU policy, clubs are to appoint a Safeguarding Officer.

#### **Section 4: Regulatory Compliance**

- Compliance with WRU and IRB rules and regulations.  
*Specifically, notification of non-Welsh qualified players in accordance with the WRU National League Rule 4.1.1 (maximum of 2 registered non-Welsh players).*
- Compliance with the RFU British & Irish Cup regulations.
- Specific compliance with the WRU player permitting & release regulations.
- Adherence to WRU commercial contracts that have specific regard for clubs within the Premier Division.



**APPENDIX B  
STATEMENT OF TRUTH & DECLARATION OF INTENT**

**(WRU – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011)**

By this document, which we have executed as a Deed, we [ ] on behalf of [ ] in our capacity as [ ] hereby confirm, warrant, represent and undertake that:

1. all of the information which has been provided to the Welsh Rugby Union Ltd prior to the date hereof on behalf of [ ] in connection with the Criteria for entry to the WRU Premier Division is true and accurate in all respects; and or
2. all of the information which will hereafter be provided to the Welsh Rugby Union Ltd on behalf of [ ] in connection with the Criteria for entry to the WRU Premier Division and all subsequent seasons will be true and accurate in all respects.

In addition, we [ ] on behalf of [ ] in our capacity as [ ] hereby declare that it is the club's intention to be assessed under the A Licence Criteria, at the enhanced standard which is to be met in all areas.

Executed as a Deed this [ ] day of [ ] 2011

Executed as a Deed  
by [ ]  
whose signature is here subscribed  
in the presence of:

.....  
Witness

Executed as a Deed  
by [ ]  
whose signature is here subscribed  
in the presence of:

.....  
Witness

Executed as a Deed  
by [ ]  
whose signature is here subscribed  
in the presence of:

.....  
Witness



<b>WRU Premier Division</b>			
<b>WRU Criteria for entry to the Premier Division</b>			
	<b>Club</b>	<b>B Licence</b>	<b>A Licence</b>
1	Prime User, renewable for a minimum of 5 yrs	Given	Given
2	Permanent fully enclosed spectator facilities	10	Given
3	Floodlighting to broadcaster specification	Given 300 lux	Given 500 lux
4	Even, full size playing surface	Given - Grade B	Given - Grade A
5	Guaranteed access to a separate training pitch with changing/showering facilities and gym facilities	15	Given
6	Purpose built covered seated accommodation for a combined total of 501 - Maximum of two stands	15	Given
7	Hard-standing, covered accommodation for 1,000	10	Given
8	Hard-standing, covered or uncovered accommodation for 1,000	10	Given
9	Clubhouse	10	Given
10	Separate Team Dining area	Given	Given
11	Toilets for spectators - ratio to attendance	10	Given
12	Clearly defined and managed technical area	Given	Given
13	Separate medical, physiotherapy, pre-hab (injury prevention) & drug testing room, suitably equipped & staffed by qualified personnel at the club playing ground.	Given	Given
14	Separate changing and toilet facilities for up to 5 referees at the club playing ground including a minimum of two showers.	Given	Given
15	Separate changing facilities for up to 30 members of both the home and away teams at the Club ground.	Given	Given
16	Disabled spectator facilities to include toilet and car parking facilities inline with the venue capacity	Given	Given
17	Guaranteed access to off road car parking – 200 vehicles and team bus	10	Given
18	Safety Management Plan, to incorporate stewarding plans for crowd safety, emergency contingency plan and evacuation plans OR General Safety Certificate for those Venues in excess of a 10,000 capacity.	Given	Given
19	TV gantry (permanent/temporary)	Given	Given
20	Designated area to cater for Press requirements, including pre and post match interviews, & Press Box.	Given	Given
21	Access to the ground for emergency services	Given	Given
22	Radio points	Given	Given
23	Scoreboard & Public Address System	Given	Given
24	High Standard Match Day Programme	Given	Given
25	Website & ability to transfer information electronically between other clubs & the WRU (including a dedicated match day hotline)	Given	Given
26	A dedicated team room, complete with relevant resources to hold briefings, meetings and undertake analysis.	Given	Given
27	Maintained level of equipment. To include as a minimum, scrummage machines, 10 tackle shields, 10 tackle bags, 10 tackle suits, 5 x ladders, 15 reversible bibs, balls (Webb Ellis), cones and poles.	Given	Given
28	Separate analysis gantry/area (if TV gantry is being utilised)	Given	Given
29	Dedicated area for both home and away Coaching Staff during play on match days	Given	Given
30	Catering Facilities (inside/outside)	Given	Given
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>0</b>
	Independent assessor to be appointed. - Floodlighting		
	Independent assessor to be appointed. - Pitch quality		
	Independent assessor to be appointed. - Survey, led by Green Guide requirements.		



Annexure 2

National Championship 2012/2013

This Division in 2012/2013 will comprise the 4 Clubs relegated from the Premier Division at the end of the 2011/2012 season together with up to 10 Clubs promoted from Division 1 East (5 in total) and Division1 West (5 in total) .

The Clubs to be promoted from Division 1 East and Division 1 West at the end of the 2011/2012 season will be determined in accordance with the meritocracy criterion as set out below:-

Term: 2006 – 2011 5 Seasons

Competition: Domestic League

For the avoidance of doubt the determining factor total points over the 5 Seasons.

League Position	Points
PL1	20
PL2	19
PL3	18
PL4	17
PL5	16
PL6	15
PL7	14
PL8	13
PL9	12
PL10	11
PL11	10
PL12	9
PL13	8
PL14	7
FD1	7
FD2	6
FD3	5
FD4	4
FD5	3
FD6	2

Future seasons will also see the implementation of an agreed criteria.



### Annexure 3

#### Play Off Matches

At the end of the Premier Division season in 2011/2012 there will be two Play Off systems to determine:

1. The Principality Premiership Champion Club.
  2. The 6<sup>th</sup> Premier Division Club to play in the British and Irish Cup in 2012/2013.
1. The Champion Club Play Off will involve the Clubs that finish the 2011/2012 season in the first 3 positions in the League table.

The format of the Champion Play Off will be:

Match 1 - Club 2 v Club 3  
Match 2 (Final) - Club 1 v Winner of Match 1  
Match 1 will be played on the Ground of Club 2  
The Final will be played at the home venue of Club 1.

2. The 6<sup>th</sup> Club to play in the British and Irish Cup in 2012/2013 will be decided by a series of Play Off matches between Clubs that have an A Licence, who will feature in the Premier Division in 2012/2013, and finish the season ranked as 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of the Clubs with A Licences in the Premier Division in 2011/2012.

The format of the British and Irish Cup qualification Play Off will be:

Match 1 - Club 7 v Club 8  
Match 2 - Club 6 v Winner Match 1  
Match 1 will be played at the Ground of Club 7

The Final (Match 2) will be played at the home venue of Club 6.