



THE WRU NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2016/2017

COMPETITION RULES

1. **Description:** The Competition shall be called The WRU National Youth League (hereinafter “the League”)
2. **Form:** The Competition shall be played on a league basis.

- a. The League will be formed in 19 divisions. Within those divisions Clubs shall play each other at home and away during the season. The schedule to these rules sets out the Clubs that comprise each division of the League in the 2016/2017 playing season. The WRU National Youth League Champion Club will be declared after a series of play off matches to be played at the end of the season.
- b. The play off matches will be played between the Clubs that win Divisions BA, DA, OA, GC1 and the Champion Club in the Scarlets Region which will be determined by the champion clubs in Divisions SA, SB and SC playing off. The winner of these regional play offs will proceed to the National League Play offs. A draw will be held to determine which Divisional winners will play in Play Offs 1, 2 and 3

The venues for Play Offs 1, 2, 3 and 4, (the Final) shall be neutral venues and shall be decided by the WRU.

The winner of the final shall be declared to be WRU National Youth League Champions.

The winners of each play off match shall be:

- i. The Club that has scored the greater number of points at the end of a match.
- ii. In the event of an equal number of points being scored by each Club at the end of the match the winning Club shall be declared in the following priority:-
 - The Club that has scored the greater number of tries
 - The Club that has scored the greater number of goals

No extra time shall be played in play off matches in which the scores are equal at full time.

If the Clubs remain tied after applying i and ii above the winning Club will be determined by a sudden death place kick competition.

3. **Eligibility**

a. Clubs

The Clubs that participate in the League shall be invited to do so by the Welsh Rugby Union.

b. Players

i) To be eligible to play in the League a player must be under 19 years old on 31st August, that is born on or after 1st September 1997 and must be at least 16 years old. No player will be eligible to play in the League unless he is a registered member of the Club for which he plays and the registration has been properly completed with the Welsh Rugby Union or a permit has been granted by his parent Club allowing him to play for another Club in the League or he is registered with a Regional Academy as a "tracked player" playing on permit for a Club (see iv below) or an "on the day" loan of players has been agreed between the Clubs in the manner hereinafter described.

ii) A player who transfers from one Club to another will be eligible to play for his new Club in the League provided that:-

- The transfer and registration request is received by the WRU and has been accepted by the Secretary of the club from which the player is transferring

The transfer and registration request is received by the WRU no later than midnight on 31st January 2017.

A player who transfers after the 31st January 2017 will not be eligible to play for his new Club in the League.

iii) Players may play on permit in the League provided that a player registered with one Club does not appear in more than 5 League matches for the same other Club during the season. Each permit must be in writing and completed by the two Clubs, the Club which holds the player's registration and the Club which requires his services for a match and lodged with the League Secretary before the match is played.

A Club may play no more than two players on permit in a match with the exception of WRU "tracked" players referred to in sub clause iv the number of which may exceed two on the condition the "tracked" players are returning to their club of origin.

A permit will not be allowed for a player registered only as a Senior player with one Club to play for another Club's Youth team in a League fixture.

iv) Players who are designated as "tracked" players shall be registered with the League Secretary by the Regional Performance Manager. If the Regional Performance Manager so decides the tracked player may play on permit from him for a Club in the Youth League. Tracked players will not be limited to 5 appearances on permit for a Club in a season

- v) On the day of a match if one Club is short of players it may be loaned players by the opposing Club. There will be no limit on the number of "on the day" loan players allowed to play in a League fixture.

4. **Entry conditions**

Clubs participating in the League must conform to:-

- a. the rules contained herein
- b. the Memorandum and Articles of Association of The Welsh Rugby Union Limited and the Regulations and Resolutions of the Board of the WRU Limited
- c. the Bye Laws, Resolutions and Regulations relating to the Game of the World Rugby.
- d. the Laws of the Game (the World Rugby Under 19 Laws will apply to this League).

5. **Responsibility for Organisation**

- a. The League will be organised and administered by the Welsh Rugby Union.
- b. The Welsh Rugby Union shall carry out the organisation and administration of the League through the appointment of a League Secretary and a League Committee.
- c. The League Secretary, shall be the WRU's Rugby Operations Co-ordinator and shall organise the League on a day to day basis.
- d. The League Committee, shall be the WRU's Regulatory Committee and shall consider matters of policy and settle disputes relating to the rules contained herein as they arise.
- e. When cases of an urgent nature occur the Chairman of the Regulatory Committee, in consultation with the League Secretary, shall have absolute discretion to deal with these cases whether provided for herein or not. Decisions made by the Chairman and the League Secretary in such cases shall be binding.
- f. A Club shall have the right to appeal to a Sub Committee appointed by the WRU Board of Directors against a decision of the League Committee provided that the appeal is made in writing, addressed to the WRU Administration Manager accompanied by a cheque for £100 made payable to the WRU and received by the Administration Manager of the WRU no more than 10 days after the decision made by the League Committee is delivered to a Club.

6. **General Rules**

- a. Fixtures
 - i. All League fixtures should be played and each Club should complete its programme of League fixtures.
 - ii. Matches in the League should be played to full time except in cases where a team gains a 50 point lead as described in rule 6 h. iii. Abandoned matches must be replayed unless the Clubs mutually agree that a result may stand and that agreement is endorsed by the League Secretary.

- iii. League matches must be played on the designated dates unless postponed because of ground or weather conditions or postponed by mutual consent of the participating Clubs
- iv. Postponed or abandoned matches must be rearranged and played no later than 30th April 2016, notice of the agreed rearranged date must be sent by both Clubs to the League Secretary within 10 days of the original fixture date. If after 14 days Clubs fail to follow this procedure the League Secretary will set a date for the new fixture and advise both Clubs accordingly.

b. Declaration of Winners

The winners of a match will be the team that has scored the greater number of points at the end of the match.

League points will be awarded as follows:-

Win	-	4 points
Draw	-	2 points

Additionally a bonus point will be awarded to a team that wins a match by more than 10 points or more and to a team that loses a match by 10 points or fewer.

c. League Placings

Divisional placings will be decided on the basis of League points gained in the season. Where Clubs have gained an equal number of League points the Club that has recorded the most wins shall be given preference. If the number of wins is equal the higher place will be determined by the results between the two Clubs in the League, the Club that won those two matches, or if the Clubs have won one match each then the Club with the most points scored in the two matches will take the higher place. If the Clubs are still equal then the Club with the higher points ratio will be the higher placed Club. The points ratio will be decided by dividing the points scored by a Club in the Youth League season by the points scored against that Club in that season.

If at the end of a season all matches in the Division have not been played and it is not possible to determine the Divisional Champion Club in the manner set out in the previous paragraph that Champion will be decided by dividing the League points gained by the league matches played and the team with the highest ratio will then be the Champion Club.

d. Duration of Play

Each match will be of 70 minutes playing time, which is 35 minutes each half (Laws of the Game – U19 variations). At half time an interval of no more than 10 minutes is allowed.

e. Match results

The Home Club must advise the League Secretary of the result of a match played by telephone, fax or email by 10am on the day after next following a match, in the case of a Saturday fixture this will be by 10am on the Monday following the fixture.

Thereafter both Clubs playing in a match must send the completed results sheet by post to the League Secretary no later than 3 days after a match has been played.

f. Protests and disputes

Protests and disputes arising from League fixtures or the operation of the League must be made in writing to the League Secretary, each protest or dispute must be accompanied by a fee of £100. This fee may or may not be refunded. The League Committee will be convened to consider such protest or dispute.

g. Penalties and Sanctions

The League Committee, in cases where it finds a Club in default of the rules herein, has authority to impose penalties upon a Club. The range of the available penalties shall be:-

- i. The deduction of League points.
- ii. The imposition of a fine
- iii. The suspension of a Club
- iv. The relegation of a Club from the Division at the end of a season
- v. Expunging a Club's playing record for the season

h. Miscellaneous Provisions

- i. If a Club elects to play with uncontested scrummages that Club will not forfeit the match. League matches may start using uncontested scrummages. The Club electing to play with uncontested scrummages must make every effort to forewarn the opposition of its intention giving at least 18 hours notice to the opposition of this intention. If a Club elects to play with uncontested scrummages in 3 successive League matches the WRU will investigate the availability of suitably trained front row forwards in that Club and recommend ways in which the Club can in future play with contested scrummages.

The team electing to play with non contested scrummages will be allowed to use substitutes.

- ii. In the event of a team being short of players and there being no "on the day loan" players available matches can be played with a minimum of 12 players per team. In circumstances where one Club is unable to raise 15 players the opposing Club's team shall comprise the same number of players at the start of a match.
- iii. In the event of a Club in a Youth League fixture gaining a points lead over the opponent Club of 50 points the match must stop at that time with the Club that has a lead of 50 points being declared the winner and gaining the appropriate number of League points for that victory.