

All Staffordshire County Youth Competition games are to be played in accordance with the current RFU Regulation 15 relating to age grade rugby. The 2016-17 document can be found by following the links below.

- [http://www.englandrugby.com/mm/Document/General/General/01/31/97/52/RFURegulation152016-2017\\_English.pdf](http://www.englandrugby.com/mm/Document/General/General/01/31/97/52/RFURegulation152016-2017_English.pdf)

There are a number of other guidance documents that can be found on the RFU site relating to Regulations 15

Entry to the leagues must be made using the club entry form to be returned to the SRU Mini & Youth Committee by the deadline which will be advised on the entry form

**Completion of Fixtures** – the competition schedule is fixed and fixtures should be played on the scheduled date, except where the fixture is re-scheduled by mutual agreement and the league coordinator is advised by email. In the event a re-scheduled fixture is not completed by the Sunday before the next round in the case of the knockout competition or by the last reserve date in the league competition the team that requested the re-schedule shall forfeit the game. In case of dispute the decision on the Mini & Youth Committee will be final.

**Determination of a Winner** - in any knockout phase of a competition the team that advances to the next stage of the competition will be on the basis of:

- Points Scored
- Tries Scored
- Conversions Scored

If the above does not clearly identify the team to progress to the next round, the 'away' team should progress.

NB/ Staffordshire Competitions Committee is of the opinion that, at Colts level, a kicking competition puts unreasonable pressure on young players.

**50 Points Rule** - If the score difference in any game reaches 50, the game will end.

In the interest of player enjoyment and development, should both teams wish to continue playing, a fresh game should be started, coaches should consider mixing players to produce a more balanced game.

**Reporting of Results** – it is the home team's responsibility to report the results of the fixture to the competition co-ordinator within 48 hours of the completion of the fixture

**Player Transfers** – if a player decides to move clubs during the season, registration forms must be completed and notification received by the former club, prior to a player being available for selection in a county fixture.

**Combined Teams** – if player numbers in any given age group of two or more clubs are insufficient to field a suitable team then clubs can join together for the purpose of competing in the Staffordshire County Youth Competitions. The relevant clubs should agree

to combine before the competition commences and should enter the competition as a combined team.

**Officials** – it is the responsibility of the home team to organise a match referee. In order to ensure the game can be safely and effectively managed, clubs are advised to ensure that, if in-house referees are appointed, they are members of the Staffordshire Rugby Union Society of Referees (SRUSR) and, if appropriate, should consider paying the subscription from club funds.

## **U12 & U13 Competitions**

These will be Waterfall Tournaments where all the teams play the same number of games. If a team cannot complete an individual fixture a 50-point win will be awarded to the opposing team.

## **U14 to U15 Knockout Competitions**

Competition draw for the preliminary / first round of games will be on an un-seeded basis, losers of the preliminary / 1st Round games will enter the 'Plate' Competition whilst the winners will commence the 'Cup' competition.

Each round's matches will be drawn from the winners of the previous round or in the case of the first round of the Plate competition from the losers of the preliminary / first rounds of the competition.

## **U16 & U17 League & Knockout Competitions**

The leagues may be separated into two groups of teams with similar playing levels, this will be dependent upon the number of teams entering the competition and the perceived 'level' of the team. The decision of Mini & Youth Committee on the composition of the leagues will be final.

The knockout competitions will be determined by the finishing league positions with the top 4 teams contesting the Cup competition, the next 4 teams contesting the Plate competition and if appropriate the next 4 teams contesting the Bowl/Shield competition.

League points will be awarded on the basis of 4 points for a win, 2 points for a draw and 1 point for a loss, no bonus points system will operate. If a team cannot complete an individual fixture a 50-point win will be awarded to the opposing team.

In the event that a team is withdrawn from a league, all results for matches played against that team will be removed from the league table.

Semi-final knockout matches shall be organised depending on the relative league position within the group of teams contesting the competition.

- SF1 – Team finishing highest v Team finishing lowest
- SF2 – Team finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> highest v Team finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> highest

If two or more teams tie in the league table, the result of the matches between the teams in question will decide their position. If this does not resolve the situation a count back of all league results will apply.

## **Discipline**

It is advised that in the event of any ill-discipline or foul play the referee should advise a player's coach and ask the coach to consider replacement of the player before any further action is required.

In the event that the referee feels it appropriate to penalize a player, the following should apply

- Player Yellow Carded - Player leaves the field for ten minutes or time applicable to their age group. The referee determines when the time has elapsed and then allows the player to return to the field of play at the next stoppage in play.
- Player Red Carded - Any player sent off during a game will be unable to play in the following match. The name of the player must be reported to the competition co-ordinator and the Staffordshire County Disciplinary Officer