

Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire & Derbyshire RFU

U14-17 Club Competition Rules 2016-17

THE GAME AND LEAGUES

- 1 All matches will be played under the I. R. B “The Laws of the game of Rugby Union” for the U19 variations.
 - U14 teams play 25 minutes each way.
 - U15 teams play 30 minutes each way.
 - U16 teams play 35 minutes each way.
 - U17 teams play 35 minutes each way.
 - One minute is allowed for injury when player will be replaced. If time delay is longer due to more serious injury the clock is stopped.

- 2 All players must be correctly registered on the RFU Game Management System (GMS) before playing for any team in the competition, subject to genuine transfers. Players not registered correctly will be dealt with as per rule 19. [See also rule 27 concerning registration procedures.]

- 3 In the event that a match is called off the following guidelines will be adopted by the Competition Secretary: -
 - A (i) If a ground is deemed unfit to play the day before the match is due, then the **home** side must contact the NLD **Competitions Secretary** and the **Opposition** immediately and they will ascertain if the match is able to go ahead at the away ground or at a suitable alternative venue. Games cancelled before this day will be deducted two league points at the discretion of the U13-19 Competitions Committee.

(ii) Rearranged fixtures must be played on the date provided by the U13-19 Competitions Committee. **Note** NLD League/Cup/Shield fixtures and any rearranged NLD matches will take precedence over clubs friendly matches.

 - B The only reason a match will be called off will be due to adverse weather conditions or having more than 5 players in Representative matches on that match date representative matches include NLD/EPDG match’s not training sessions – see rule 20.

 - C The home team **must** communicate with their own Club’s Playing Committee Chair or equivalent to deem if the pitch will be playable on the Sunday, taking into account the weather forecast and the possibility of a later kick off. The Opposition, the Referee and the Competitions Secretary **must** be kept personally informed of all developments and a decision to abandon the match must be made **no later** than 8 pm on the Saturday preceding the Sunday.

 - D (i) Cancellation on the day of the match will only be due to adverse weather conditions and after consultation with the NLD appointed referee to ascertain if the pitch is unplayable. That decision must be notified to the NLD Competition Secretary personally by the home club **immediately** after that decision has been made.

The Home Team must take the travelling distances for the referee and for the Opposition into account while making these decisions. **Communication between clubs is paramount and in the first instance is the responsibility of the home team.**

E If a match is abandoned due to deteriorating weather/pitch conditions then the following will apply. The current score of the match will stand if the match has been played for the following length of time.

- (i) Over 35 minutes into a 50 minute game
- (ii) Over 45 minutes into a 60 minute game
- (iii) Over 55 minutes into a 70 minute game

The final result will be at the discretion of the NLD Competitions Committee after receiving the signed completed match cards from both teams and the Match officials written report.

If the match is abandoned before this amount of play has taken place then the result will be void and the match replayed in accordance with Rule 3 a ii.

- 4** The pitch will be marked out clearly to the requirements of the laws of the game. These include the provision for all pitches used for NLD competition games to be roped off to a minimum width of 2 M (6ft) from each touchline. There should also be a technical area marked off for both teams, Coaches, Physios and Water Carriers are to remain within the technical area at all times unless instructed by the referee. This is to keep spectators away from the touchlines ensuring the safety of players and to give Touch Judges a safe area in which to move. If the Referee feels that the pitch is not marked out to a suitable standard then the home club must mark the pitch to a suitable standard before the match commences at the referees discretion if the match is not played the home team will forfeit the match.
- 5** Only two team coaches (one of which will be the Water Carrier/Tee Runner) and the Touch Judges are allowed within the roped off playing area. All Replacements, Water Carriers, Medical Bags etc are to remain behind the rope or barrier at all times. If a team has a qualified physio or sports therapist assisting them, he or she can remain inside the rope or barrier only the touch judge is allowed to run along the touch line all remaining coaches etc to remain in the technical area at all times.
- 6** (i) Referees will be allocated to matches by the NLD Referees Society as instructed by the NLDRDP; certain matches will have three officials appointed by the NLD Referees Society. In extreme circumstances, if a referee cannot be appointed by NLDRFURS, the home club will be responsible to provide a referee qualified to at least 'RFU Level 2 Refereeing the 15 a side game' and be approved by the Competitions Committee prior to final appointment.
- (ii) Replacement club appointed referees must hold a current RFU DBS check. Please inform both the Opposition and the NLD Competitions Secretary of all developments. The NLD Competitions Secretary will then, if applicable, officially appoint the new referee to this match.
- (iii) If the new referee has a conflict of interests in the match (ie a coach / parent) then the Opposition **must** be informed. The match will then go ahead as planned.
- 7** A home team official will contact and confirm, The Fixture, The Venue, Kick off Time and The two teams colours with the appointed match referee before 6:00pm the preceding Thursday to the Sunday of the match. **Failure to do so could mean the referee is re-allocated to another match.**
- 8** In the event of a clash of colours the home team will change their jerseys so that there is no such clash to the satisfaction of the referee. All team jerseys are to be independently numbered and only one such number are used in the playing squad. It will be best if

numbers 1 to 22 were used but not vital as long as these numbers are changed to correspond with the result card. All clubs will have numbered shirts for all NLD matches and RFU organised matches. Repeated offences may lead to the team having pool points deducted or even removed from the pools at the discretion of the NLD U13-19's Competitions Committee.

- 9 Each club will provide a competent touch judge who has a good knowledge of the competition rules, the IRB laws of the Rugby Football Union and the use of the flag for each pool match unless the NLD Referees society has allocated touch judges.
- 10 For the match to be eligible to be a pool match Rule 6 and Rule 27 must be adhered to.
- 11 **The Match/Result Card will be completed by each of the HOME and AWAY team managers/coach and handed to the referee at least 15 minutes before the match.** All team jerseys are to be differently numbered with numbers corresponding to the player named on the completed team result card (see Rule 8). The referee will complete the scores, yellow or red cards; pitch roped off or not, signing and returning the card to the team official after the match.
- 12 Both the home and away team official will sign and write their name and club position on each result card in the appropriate place. The result cards are available electronically from the U13-19 Competitions Committee.
- 13 Once the Team/Result Card is handed to the match referee, an NLD U13-19 Competition Secretary or a member of the NLD Competition Management Committee may ask to see individual players/whole teams each with their RFU Game Management System Print Out.
- 14 A Printout from the RFU Game Management System must be carried to all NLD pool matches by the head coach or person responsible for the team on that day.
- 15 Both the **HOME AND AWAY** sides must telephone/text/e-mail the result of the match to the Competition Secretary by 5pm on the day of the match, or 9pm on the night of an evening match. Failure to do so will result in breach of administration rules. Repeated offences may lead to the team having pool points deducted or the team even removed from the pools at the discretion of the NLD U13-19 Competitions Committee.
- 16 Both the **HOME and AWAY** team manager's will ensure the result card is emailed to the Correct Competition Secretary within 5 working days of the date of the match. Clubs should a keep a copy of the match card also. Repeated offences may lead to the team having pool points deducted or even removed from the pools at the discretion of the NLD U13-19 Competitions Committee.

U14 - 17 Competitions

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- 17 Rolling substitutes from a match day squad of **22 registered players** are allowed in a match. In line with IRB Regulations there must be at least 6 players capable of playing in the Front Row.

Number of Suitably Trained and Experienced Players

15 or less 3 players who can play in the front row

16, 17 or 18 4 players who can play in the front row

19, 20, 21 5 players who can play in the front row

Or 22 6 players who can play in the front row U 19 Variations Law 3.5 (c)

- 18 **A team must have a minimum of 10 players on the field of play at the start of a match, who must be correctly registered on the RFU Game Management System for the match to be deemed a pool match. Both teams will start the game with the same amount of players on the pitch. Games may if required be started or change to uncontested scrums as required by the availability of suitably trained front row players. In the event of injury the team with the greater number of players will only have a maximum of one more player on field at any time, Teams who default a pool match due to lack of numbers will see the result recorded as Rule 23.**

- 19 Teams playing unregistered players will have 2 pool points deducted from their result table or even have the team removed from the competition at the discretion of the NLD U13-19 Competitions Committee. (All player registrations will be checked against the result cards after all matches played on or after 1st October). Any Team playing an unregistered player in the semi final or final of the competition will be disqualified.

- 20 Where a team will have more than 5 players in a NLD/DPP representative team/squad on the day of a match not training sessions, this fact must be communicated to the Competition Secretary in writing (by e-mail) before 8:00pm on the Monday evening preceding the match. Once the NLD Representative squad has been named the NLD U13-19 Competitions Committee will make the decision to postpone the match by no later than 8:00pm on the Thursday evening prior to the Sunday match.

- 21 A match may be rearranged in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the NLD Junior Competitions committee, all requests for change of dates must be in writing at least 14 days before the date of the fixture, Requests must be on official club letter head and signed by the club chairman secretary and team manager before any requests will be considered.

- 22 Points will be scored in the Pools as follows: win 4 points, draw 2 points (and a bonus point will only be awarded in the event of scoring four or more tries), loss 0 points, 1 Bonus Point will be awarded to all teams scoring 4 or more tries in a match, a losing team who lose by 7 points or less will receive 1 bonus point; no points will be awarded to a team conceding a game and rule 23 will apply. Any team conceding or forfeiting a match will have 2 points deducted from their pool points and have 4 administration points added. Repeated offences may lead to the team being withdrawn from the competition at the discretion of the NLD U13-19 Competitions Committee. In pools of the U 14 – U 16 shield competition it may become necessary to have pools of different sizes due to the number of entries the Calculation to achieve the best runner in the event of different sized pools is “Total No of Points Scored Divided by Number of Games Played by each team multiplied x 20 gives you a % figure the team with the highest % is the team that goes through as the best Runner Up”.

- 23 When the difference in scores between the two teams **exceeds** 50 points the referee will stop the match, as the match will be deemed to be over (games may continue at the

discretion of the team coaches but the result must be recorded at the point of 50 points difference being exceeded).

- 24** In a defaulted Match the team deemed to have won will receive 4 points and a bonus point Towards the pool results table and the result recorded as a 30 – 0 Point win. A team defaulting a match for any reason will be deemed to have lost 0 – 30 and will have 2 points deducted from their pool results table. The referee society reserves the right to impose a fine of £50.00 for late cancellations on the club that defaults or concedes the match.
- 25** **(i)** All players to play in the under 14 competition must be under 14 on the 1st September of that season.
- (ii)** All players to play in the under 15 competition must be under 15 on the 1st September of that season.
- (iii)** All players to play in the under 16 competition must be under 16 on the 1st September of that season.
- (iv)** All players to play in the under 17 competition must be under 17 on the 1st September of that season.
- 26** **(i)** A player can also play for an age group one year above, if they are eligible for that season. i.e. U14 can play 'up' to U15. A copy of the NLD Playing Out of Age Grade form should be completed and carried to all matches, along with the players NLD Registration as well as copy submitted to the NLD Office. The appropriate age group must be marked next to the players name on the official Team/Result Card.
- (ii)** Players will not be permitted under any circumstances to play 'down' one year in any NLD Junior Competitions

PLAYER REGISTRATION AND TRANSFERS

Definition:-

- 27** All players must be correctly registered on the RFU Game Management System (GMS) for the currently season to be eligible to play for their club in NLD Competitions.
- 28** If a team from outside of NLD wishes to enter NLD Competitions they may do so with the agreement of the U13-19 Competitions Committee. However, if they also have another team entered in a different competition they will be required to provide a squad list of the players involved in that competition. These players will then not be eligible to take any part in NLD Competitions.
- 29** Players may only play for one age group within their club in both the semi-final and final stages of the NLD U13-19 Competitions on any given day.
- 30** If a club enters more than one team at an age group then the first 17 players in the Cup Competition must be submitted to the U13-19 Committee before the first game. These players will not be eligible to play in the Shield squad but any Shield players may play in the Cup Squad.
- 31** Transfers are permissible with the permission of the NLD U13-19 Competitions Committee. A player who applies to be transferred will not be eligible to play for the new club until: -

A All-relevant parties complete and sign the official NLD Player Transfer Form and submit this to the NLD Office.

B The NLD U13-19 Competitions Committee has agreed the transfer and have advised the new club in writing.

C The player is a member of his new club and fully registered to his new club on the RFU Game Management System.

D If the player completes the transfer process and the form is received in the NLD Office within the period of 1st June and 30th September of the season then this player will be eligible to play in the next match of an NLD competition for the new club after the transfer has been completed. However, transfers received after 30th September will mean that the player transferring will not be eligible to play in the next NLD competition after the completion of the transfer.

32 Players who transfer from another club within NLD after 31st December of that season will not be eligible to play for the new club in the NLD Cup/Shield competitions for the remainder of that season. Players Joining a Club from the adjoining counties of South Yorkshire/Cambridgeshire/Rutland/Leicestershire/Staffordshire due to genuine personal circumstance's after 28th February of that season will not be eligible to play for the new club in the NLD Cup/Shield competitions for the remainder of that season. A non registered player new to the game of rugby from either education or migrating from outside the NLD and the above adjoining counties after 31 December in the applicable season may play for the new club in all matches after the player has been successfully registered on the RFU Game Management System.

33 A player may play for more than one club in the NLD U13-19 Competitions providing that all the above rules have been abided by.

DISCIPLINE

34 Any player under 18 years of age receiving a red card will be disciplined within 7 days of the offence by the player's club in line with the RFU sanctions for that season as per the NLD website. A club official will complete the RFU club sanction form and notify the NLD with the completed sanction form within 7 days of the offence. The NLD will approve the sanction before that player is allowed to play Rugby Football Union again.

35 The player will be automatically suspended from the next match in the competition when a red card has been issued. A player receiving two yellow cards in the competition will also be automatically suspended by the NLD U13-19 Competition Committee from the next match in the competition regardless of any other sanctions implemented by the club.

36 The Minimum Discipline period of suspension is 14 Days Starting at 00:01 Hrs on the Monday following the offence to 00:01 Hrs on the Monday at the end of the suspension. The NLD Discipline Committee will approve or alter the Discipline sanction; the necessary disciplinary action must be completed in full before that player can play again for any Tigers academy three counties representative rugby, Club, College or School team in any match. The player or his registered club may appeal against any decision made by the NLD Discipline Committee as rule 38. The player will remain suspended whilst under appeal.

37 Any player whose discipline sanction has not been notified by their club to the NLD Discipline Secretary and the NLD Office in writing within the 7 Day period as stated in Rule 35, the NLD Discipline Committee will then discipline the player and club. The player or his

registered club may make appeals against the decision made by the NLD Discipline Committee as Rule 39. The player will remain suspended whilst under appeal. If a club is not forthcoming with information regarding player sanctions the player will be deemed to be suspended until the NLD Competitions committee has been formally notified in writing

- 38** Appeals against the NLD U13-19 Competition Committee or NLD Discipline Committee may be made to the NLD on receipt of a £50 cheque as deposit and within 7 days of the original decision being made, refundable if the appeal is upheld. The decision of the NLD U13-19 Competitions Committee is final.

A] Player Safety

Coaches need to be aware that NLD Referees will not allow the practice known as Squeeze Ball to be used in these competitions.

The NLD RFU advises all coaches to encourage the use of approved safety equipment by players at all levels and ages, especially mouth and head guards, where applicable.

The RFU Schools and Youth Handbook states 'It is not desirable for anyone to play two games in two days. The day after playing should be a recovery day' The NLD RDP recommends that players do not play for School sides on a Saturday and then play for their Club on a Sunday (We trust that all clubs will respect this recommendation or in the future we may have to consider this point becoming a competition rule).

B] Tie breakers.

In the pools:-

The positions will be determined as follows in order of priority;

1. Highest No of pool points scored,
2. Highest Points Difference,
3. Highest No of tries scored.
4. Lowest No of discipline points,
5. NLD U13-19 Competition Committee discretion.

In the Semi-Finals:-

Where the scores are level at full time, no extra time is allowed under IRB Law. The winner will be determined as follows in order of priority,

1. Highest No of Tries scored in the Semi Final,
2. Tries Converted in the Semi Finals
3. Penalty kicks converted in the semi finals
4. Least Red Cards in the semi finals
5. Least Yellow Cards in the semi finals
6. Highest % of Pool Points
7. Highest No of Pool Tries
8. Highest No of Pool Tries Converted
9. Least Red Cards in the Pools
10. Least Yellow Cards in the Pools
11. If the teams can still not be separated then a rematch will be arranged.

On Finals day:-

If the scores are level at full time, no extra time is allowed under IRB Law. The winner will be determined as follows in order of priority,

1. Highest No of Tries scored in the Final,
2. Tries Converted in the Final
3. Least Red Cards in the Final
4. Least Yellow Cards in the Final
5. Share Trophy

Seeding's, Promotion and Relegation

In the cup competition there are 3 pools of four teams. The 3 pool winners and the best second placed team on points, as per above, will go forward into the semi finals.

The bottom team in the Cup Competition from each pool [3 teams in total] in one season will be relegated to the shield competition in the following season.

The top three teams from the Shield Competition – made up from the two finalists and the best loser in the semi finals, go up into the Cup Competition in the following season.

U14 Three Tier Trial

In 2016-17 we will be trialling a three tier competition at U14 level ONLY. This will run as a Cup, Plate & Shield with the top teams from last year's Cup being entered into the Cup once again. The bottom teams from the Cup and the top teams from the Shield being entered into the Plate and the remaining teams in the Shield. We will confirm the tier of competition that your club will compete in once the entries have all been received and the number of teams in each will be very much dependant on entries.

Semi Finals Draws

U 14 – U 16 Cup and Shield Draws

The winners of each pool and the best runner up of the three pools will go through to the semi-final draw. The draw will seed the two teams from the same pool in opposite semi-finals the remaining two teams will be drawn into the remaining places. In the event of 4 pools the top team from each pool will be entered straight into the semi-final and a straight draw will take place. The Semi Finals will be only one game and the team drawn first will be given the home advantage.

SAFETY

1. It is the responsibility of the officials of both teams to ensure the safety of the referee and the discipline of players and spectators.
2. The pitch will be marked out clearly to the requirements of the laws of the game including technical areas. These include the provision for all pitches used for Cup and Shield games to be completely rope off or the use of fixed barriers at least 2 meters away from the touch lines to keep spectators, Players/replacements away from the touchlines and to ensure the safety of players and to give Touch Judges a safe area in which to move.
3. It is the responsibility of the home team to ensure that the playing surface is free of foreign objects (ie animal faeces, soiled bandages, glass, and tape)
4. Substitutes must remain behind the rope or barrier at all times. Only when a substitute player is going to replace a player on the pitch will he enter the playing area or when water is being taken on for the players on the pitch. The player that has been substituted must then return to the area behind the rope or barrier.

ACCEPTANCE

1. **It is a condition of entry to any of the U13 -19 competitions to read and accept these rules in full.**

- 2 Each team entering the competitions will complete an entry form and send the completed form and the correct cheque as per the Entry Form, payable to NLD RFU Ltd., to the NLD RDP (£5.00 of which will be your teams Donation to the Air Ambulance Scheme).