



NLD RFU

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, LINCOLNSHIRE & DERBYSHIRE
RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

NLDRFU U13-U16 COMPETITION RULES

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The Competition format & rounds will be determined by the number of teams that enter each age group. The Junior Competitions Committee reserve the right to amend the format to best suit the number of teams entered, with the aim of each team getting as much game time as possible. The format of the competition should allow for fixtures to 'flow' without the need for draws to be done for each round. When a draw is required, coaches will be invited to a What's app call to watch the draw live. The NLD Competitions Committee reserves the right to swap home and away teams in any draw to try and maintain a fair balance of home/away fixtures for each team.

The U13s teams will be drawn at random at the start of the competition, while the U14s-U16s can be seeded to an extent to try and reduce the likelihood of huge points differences in matches. For early rounds we will try to group teams geographically to avoid the need for excess travel.

1. COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY

- 1.1 Entry into the NLD Competition is open to U13, U14, U15 and U16.
- 1.2 All players taking part in the NLD Competition must be under their respective age at 24.00hrs on 31st August of the relevant year.
- 1.3 Every player **MUST** be a signed-up member of their club and also registered correctly on the GMS before taking part in the Competition, as per RFU Regulation 15.1.4.
- 1.4 Any player who takes part in any round of the NLD Competition for one club and then transfers, is barred from playing for his new club in any further matches in the same Competition. Where the organisers become aware of any breach of this rule they may, at their discretion, award the match in question to the non-offending team; this may affect how the offending team advances to further rounds of the competition.
- 1.5 Clubs who have entered more than one team in any one age group:
 - 1.5.1 Players who have played any amount of game time for one team may not play for another team in the NLD Junior Competition in the same year.
 - 1.5.2 If the number of teams entered into one age group exceeds that which is required for the competition format, then the first team entered from each club will be prioritised. If necessary, 2nd teams will be entered into a draw to determine entry.
- 1.6 Playing out of age grade (up or down) is not permitted in this competition.



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2. CONDUCT OF MATCHES

2.1 GENERAL

2.1.1 Fixtures must take place on or before the dates specified for each Round, subject to very exceptional circumstances. Where a club feels that such exceptional circumstances apply, application should be made to the Competition Secretary for specific authority to re-arrange the fixture. Clubs should follow these steps if they are unable to host a home game:

- 1- Find an alternative, suitable venue
- 2- If no other venue is available, reverse the fixture
- 3- If reversing is not possible, only then look at rearranging.

In any case, the decision should be made by midday on the day before the fixture, to give sufficient notice to the referee and opposition.

RFU rules on null and void fixtures will apply to fixtures not completed. NLD Junior Competition fixtures must take precedence over others. Clubs should follow these steps if they are unable to host a home game:

2.1.2 In the event of adverse weather conditions on the day of the fixture, the referee's decision as to starting the match or continuation shall be final.

2.1.3 All matches will cease being a Competition Game after reaching a **50 point margin in U14s, U15s & U16s matches and a 35 point margin in the U13s matches**. **Scores at this point in the game are the scores to be recorded on the match card and for publication anywhere. No further points may be counted in the match.** It is hoped that teams involved in such games turn the rest of the match into a development game. A development game will involve both teams making sure that fringe players are more prominent wherever possible, mixing the teams up, players playing out of position etc. recognising that front row rules must still be observed.



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2.2 PLAYER IDENTIFICATION

A challenge on a player must be made at the time of the match and not afterwards.

This can be done via email to junior.competitions@nldrfs.co.uk. Providing there are no safety concerns the game should go ahead and a review of the player in question will be made by the NLD Junior Competitions Committee in office hours. If there has been a breach of the rules, the game will be awarded to the non-offending team.

2.3 MATCH REPORTING

- 2.3.1 Match reporting is compulsory for all age groups. The outcome of games are recorded to enable teams to advance to later rounds and must be updated on GMS by 6pm on the day of the match.
- 2.3.2 Yellow and red cards need to be reported, with the name and number of the player receiving the card to be emailed to junior.competitions@nldrfs.co.uk by 6pm on the day of the match.
- 2.3.3 All squad and team details must be entered correctly on GMS.

2.4 PLAYING STRIP-COLOURS

- 2.4.1 In the event of a clash of colours the Home team will change their playing strip. All shirts will be numbered.

2.5 REFEREES AND DISCIPLINE

- 2.5.1 The tournament secretary will request NLD RFU to appoint a referee for each match. In the event that a referee cannot be appointed it is up to the home club to appoint a club referee.
- 2.5.2 Any player receiving either a red or yellow card during a competition match must be reported to the tournament secretary. Red cards must also be reported to the player's Club Disciplinary Secretary and NLD Age Grade Disciplinary Secretary. The disciplinary process must be carried out in accordance with Regulation 19 Appendix 6. A player receiving a red card must not play any matches from receipt of the red card until the disciplinary process has been



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completed, and not before the return-to-play date set as a result of any sanctions.

- 2.5.3 Clubs are expected to provide a responsible person to act as a touch judge (TJ) in all matches to assist the referee in matters affecting the touchline and for penalty and conversion kicks at goal only.

2.6 PLAYING REGULATIONS

- 2.6.1 Matches will be played in accordance with the laws of the game as published by the World Rugby (including the World Rugby Under 19 Law Variations) and such law variations set out in RFU Regulation 15 and Age Grade specific rules of play. (RFU Regulation 15: <https://www.englandrugby.com/governance/rules-and-regulations/regulations>)
- 2.6.2 All players must be named in the squad on the match card and, in accordance with RFU Regulation 15.12 Half Game Rule, **MUST PLAY AT LEAST HALF A GAME.**
- 2.6.3 Match times
- U13 and U14 teams play 25 minutes each way.
 - U15 teams play 30 minutes each way.
 - U16 teams play 35 minutes each way.
- 2.6.4 Minimum squad size is 12 for competitive games. Opposition must match these numbers. Matches can be played with reduced numbers to a minimum of 10 players a side. In all matches, there must be the same number of players from each team on the field of play, subject to the laws of the game. In the event that a team drops below 10 players, the match will be abandoned and the team responsible for causing the abandonment shall be deemed to have lost the match.
- 2.6.6 Rolling substitutions are permitted and substituted players can be re-used at any time. Substitutions can only take place when the ball is dead and always with the referee's knowledge.
- 2.6.7 In accordance with Regulation 15.11.3 the maximum points difference in a game is 50 (35 for U13s). **If this threshold is reached the final score is recorded.** We encourage teams to then play on a developmental game and to ensure the Half Game rule is complied with.
- 2.6.8 No extra time will be played. In the event of a draw, the winner will be decided by (a)the number of tries, (b)...conversions, penalties and discipline. If all of these aspects still remain tied then the win will be awarded to the away team. (Only knockout stages)



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3. GENERAL CONDUCT

- 3.1** The NLD and Organisers take the gravest view of inappropriate conduct from players, coaches and spectators. It is the responsibility of each club to control the behaviour and positioning of its players, coaches, managers, administrators and spectators and all clubs must be aware of, and uphold, the RFU's 'Fair Play' Code of Contact.
- 3.2** In the event of a report being received of a failure to observe acceptable conduct the Organisers shall take, on behalf of the NLD, any such action against the offending team as it considers appropriate, including, but not limited to, ordering the re-playing of the match, awarding the match to the other side, or excluding the team from the remainder of the competition.

4. INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES

- 4.1** Any appeal or dispute must be notified in writing to junior.competitions@nldrfu.co.uk within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match.
- 4.2** The decision of the organiser shall be final and binding on all participants. All competition entrants accept this provision and accept that there shall be no further appeal other than stated in paragraph 4.3 below.
- 4.3** In the event that the matter cannot be resolved to a club's satisfaction, the Tournament Secretary may require both clubs to state their respective positions in writing within such period as he deems reasonable, and consultation with organisers will determine the outcome of the dispute.



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Competition Dates

	U13s	U14s	U15s	U16s
Round 1	6 th October 2024	13 th October 2024	22 nd September 2024	13 th October 2024
Round 2	17 th November 2024	24 th November 2024	20 th October 2024	10 th November 2024
Round 3	8 th December 2024	5 th January 2025	10 th November 2024	1 st December 2024
Round 4	19 th January 2025	26 th January 2025	8 th December 2024	12 th January 2025
Round 5	2 nd February 2025	16 th February 2025	26 th January 2025	16 th February 2025
Semi Final	23 rd February 2025	23 rd March 2025	23 rd February 2025	23 rd March 2025
Final	4 th May 2025	27 th April 2025	6 th April 2025	27 th April 2025