NLD RFU
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, LINCOLNSHIRE & DERBYSHIRE
RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

NLDRFU U13-U16 COMPETITION RULES

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By submitting an entry to the competition, clubs are agreeing that they have read these rules and the Code of Conduct in full, and agree to adhere to them throughout the competition.

The Competition format & rounds will be determined by the number of teams that enter each age group. The Junior Competitions Committee reserves 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. 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.

All of our rules are based on RFU Reg 15.

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 Playing out of age grade is permitted as long as the appropriate approval has been granted, in compliance with RFU Reg 15. (Information on this can be found on the NLD website https://nldrfu.co.uk/governance/safeguarding-2/nld-safeguarding-children/

1.4 If a team has players playing out of age grade (up or down) they must have the approval signed off by RFU Safeguarding, inform NLD and declare this to the opposition prior to kick off.

1.5 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.

1.6 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.

1.7 Any clubs wishing to enter more than one team in the same age group must contact the NLD Junior Competitions Committee before submitting the entries.

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2 CONDUCT OF MATCHES

2.5 GENERAL

2.5.1 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.

If teams cannot agree on a date to play; fixtures will be null and void and 0 points awarded to both teams. NLD Junior Competition fixtures must take precedence over others.

2.5.2 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.

2.5.3 All matches will cease being a Competition Game after reaching a **50 point margin in U14s, U15s & U16s matches and a 6 try 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. Scores submitted which show a points difference of greater than 50 will be amended to make a maximum 50 point lead.** 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.

2.6 PLAYER IDENTIFICATION

Any team found to be playing an ineligible player will be disqualified from the fixture and the game awarded to the opposing 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. If you do not have GMS access, please email the result instead, to junior.competitions@nldrfu.co.uk (please include age group, names of both teams and result).

2.3.2 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, one team will change their playing strip. All shirts will be numbered.

2.5 REFEREES AND DISCIPLINE

2.5.1 The Competition Committee will request NLDRFURS 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 junior.competitions@nldrfu.co.uk detailing the fixture and name & number of the player. Red cards must also be reported to the player's Club Disciplinary Secretary and NLD Age Grade Disciplinary Secretary (youth.disciplinary@nldrfu.co.uk) The disciplinary process must be carried out in accordance with Regulation 19 Appendix 6.

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/run/rules-governance/rfu-rules-and-regulations/regulation-15-age-grade-rugby)*

2.6.2 In accordance with RFU Regulation 15.12 Half Game Rule, all players **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.

2.6.8 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; except in a final where the trophy will be shared if all elements remain tied.

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 NLD Junior Competition Code of Contact which is to be read in full, alongside these rules.

3.2 In the event of a report being received of a failure to observe acceptable conduct the Competitions Committee 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 Competition Committee 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.

Competition Dates

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	U13s	U14s	U15s	U16s
Round 1	5th October 2025	28th September 2025	21st September 2025	12th October 2025
Round 2	16th November 2025	12th October 2025	5th October 2025	***9th November 2025 ****
Round 3	7th December 2025	23rd November 2025	19th October 2025	30th November 2025
Round 4	18th January 2026	7th December 2025	***9th November 2025 ****	11th January 2026
Round 5	1st February 2026	4th January 2026	7th December 2025	
Round 6		25th January 2026	11th January 2026	
Round 7		15th February 2026	25th January 2026	
Semi-Final	***22nd February 2026 *****	22nd March 2026	22nd February 2026	22nd March 2026
Final	3rd May 2026	26th April 2026	***29th March 2026****	26th April 2026

This date is Remembrance Day.
****** This date may fall at the beginning/end of a school holiday.***

Please check your squad availability ahead of time and remember these are play by dates so you can arrange the fixture for before. Please let the competition committee know of any change of date ASAP.
THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO 29TH MARCH, AS FINALS DAYS CANNOT BE REARRANGED.