

REGULATIONS – Gloucestershire Under 18s League



Gloucestershire RFU Under 18's League Regulations

1. NAME

- a. The competition shall be called the Gloucestershire Under 18's League ("**the Competition**").

2. ADMINISTRATION

- a. The league tables shall be supervised by Gloucestershire Rugby Football Union ("**supervising constituent body**") via its Competitions Sub-Committee ("**the Committee**"), who shall appoint a League Administrator who will be responsible for the league.
- b. The Competition Administrator shall administer the league and make such decisions as they deem appropriate to run an efficient and fair competition.
- c. Decisions of the Competition Administrator are subject to review under the GRFU protests procedure.
- d. The Committee shall have the power to alter or amend these regulations, as it deems appropriate.
- e. A copy of these regulations **MUST** be available at the HOME club should clarification need to be sought by the referee.

3. BEHAVIOUR

Clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their players, coaches and spectators at all times. Incidents involving bad behaviour and/or referee abuse are at variance from the core values of our game. Failure to comply with the core values and expectations of the GRFU could result in the offending club being referred to another GRFU body outside of the competitions committee remit for review.

4. CLUB ELIGIBILITY

- a. The competition is open to all GRFU Combination clubs ("eligible clubs").
- b. Any other clubs or teams may enter only with the express permission of the committee.
- c. All clubs confirming entry into the U18s League must pay the sum of £50.00 per team (payable to the GRFU).

5. STRUCTURE and FIXTURES

- a. The number of leagues and the size of each will be determined by the Committee and depend on the number of teams participating.
- b. The Competition Administrator shall draw up the fixtures for the season.
- c. Upon receipt of the fixture lists participating clubs may rearrange the fixture dates if necessary, and must notify the Competition Administrator of any changes by September 1st.
- d. Any matches in the county-wide leagues unavoidably cancelled or un-played for whatever reason shall be played on the next available date that may be agreed by both clubs and approved by the Competition Administrator. In the area leagues such games should be rescheduled if practicable
- e. In the event of a dispute between clubs as to when a game should be played, the game shall be played on the date originally specified by the Competition Administrator or any other date that the Competition Administrator deems suitable.

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- f. Games must be played between 1st September and 25th December

6. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- a. Players need to be registered, with their clubs

7. MATCH ORGANISATION

- a. The home side shall use its best endeavours to secure the services of a referee supplied from the Gloucestershire Federation of Rugby Union Referees ("GFRUR").
- b. In the event of the GFRUR being unable to appoint a referee the home side shall be responsible for providing the referee.
- c. The home side shall be responsible for informing the referee of these regulations.
- d. If in the opinion of the referee there is a colour clash the home side shall change its shirts.
- e. Matches shall be played on Sunday afternoons unless mutually agreed between the participating clubs concerned.
- f. All other match arrangements shall be made as for usual club fixtures.

8. REPLACEMENTS

- a. An open number of replacements can be agreed by both captains and referee before the commencement of the game subject to a maximum of 7 as prescribed by IRB Law 3.4. If agreement cannot be reached a maximum of 5 NOMINATED replacements will apply. The above will apply regardless of the number of players starting the game.
- b. If a team has less than 15 players, every effort must be made to even up the numbers before the game starts, which may include loaning players to the opposition. Initially a team may not have more than a one man advantage, any extra players being available as reserves. Subsequently a team may only increase its numbers with the agreement of the opposition.
- c. All games in all League will start with a minimum of TEN men per side. Every effort should be made to play the game even if as few as 20 players are available between the two teams. In such cases, the duration of the game may be shortened to a minimum of 20 minutes each way.
- d. Should there at any time be insufficient suitably trained and experienced front row players on the field, the match shall continue with uncontested scrums. (See Regulation 9 b). If necessary, a match may be played throughout with uncontested scrums. Where possible the opposition should be notified well in advance.

9. DETERMINATION OF RESULT

- a. If the referee abandons a game, for whatever reason, before three-quarters of the time has been played, then the game shall be void. Otherwise the result shall stand as though the game had been completed normally.
- b. In the event of uncontested scrums for all or part of the game the result will stand as though contested scrums had taken place throughout.

10. NOTIFICATION OF RESULT

- a. Both sides will be responsible for sending in results. Scores must be checked with the referee and submitted to the appropriate Competition Administrator by Monday 12 noon.
- b. If a club regularly fails to report results, they will be warned, and if it continues, the Committee will take action, possible penalties including loss of points and/or expulsion from the league.

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11. UNPLAYED MATCHES

- a. Where a club declines or refuses to fulfil a fixture for reasons unacceptable to the League Secretary it will (subject to its right to appeal) have competition points deducted or other penalty or sanction as is deemed appropriate.
- b. In the event that the Committee become aware that a member club has materially misled or deceived them to gain an advantage. The Committee reserves the right to impose such disciplinary action as they deem fit including expulsion from the league.

12. DETERMINATION OF WINNER OF LEAGUE

- a. 5 points shall be awarded for a win. 3 points for a draw and 1 point for a loss.
- b. In the event of any team failing to fulfil any fixture they shall forfeit the game. The offending side shall be deducted 4 points, and their opposition shall receive 5 points. If a team scratches on the day of the match, the deduction will be 5 points.
- c. The winner of each League shall be the team with the highest no of points
- d. In the event of two clubs having the same number of points the club having scored the most points during their head to head games shall take the higher position. If there is still a tie, the club having scored the greatest number of points against common opponents shall be the higher. If there is still a tie, the organising committee shall draw lots.
- e. If a club plays less than half its scheduled fixtures, the Competitions Committee may, at its discretion, discount all that team's matches in determining the winner of the League.

13. PROMOTION & RELEGATION

- a. The basic rule will be that the top two teams in a league are promoted and the bottom two will be relegated. Every effort will be made to ensure at least one promotion per area league
- b. Where the top parallel area leagues lead into a single county-wide league, the bottom three from the county-wide league shall be relegated. The top team from each of the parallel leagues shall be promoted, together with the winner of a play-off match between the runners-up.
- c. The date for the play-off match shall be agreed by the organiser and the clubs concerned, but it should be played before the end of April if at all possible.
- d. If relegations into and promotions from a top area league do not match, the committee will adjust the number of relegations and promotions in lower leagues as appropriate.
- e. No club shall have two teams in the same league. The committee shall resolve any such problems arising from application of the regulations on promotion and relegation.

14. DISPUTES

- a. There is a three stage process for resolving disputes (timescales for club action in brackets):
 - i. Formal statement of the details emailed to the League Secretary or Competition manager, who will try to resolve the issue. There is no fee for this. (1 week).
 - ii. If that is not possible or not acceptable a club may send a formal Protest to the Committee. The fee is £50, which may be refunded if appropriate. (1 month).
 - iii. If the matter is still not resolved, the final GRFU stage is a formal Appeal to the supervising constituent body. This will be handled in accordance with Appendix 8 of the GRFU Operating Procedures, copied below. It involves a fee of £100, which may be refunded if appropriate. (1 month).
- b. These procedures are in accordance with Appendix 8 and 9 of the GRFU Operating Procedures.

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Operating procedure Appendix 8

Competitions Rules Breaches

The procedure for dealing with breaches of competitions rules shall be dealt with following the principles of natural justice. (See Appendix 9). To that end all procedural and technical considerations must take second place to the paramount object of being as just and fair to all parties as is consistent with a duty to the Game. The Competitions Committee is delegated the authority by the GRFU Management Board to deal with such matters

If a club has been deemed to have breached the Competitions Rules the following procedures should be adopted:

- The Competitions Secretary shall inform the club of the breach and that a hearing will take place.
- The club shall be informed of the arrangements for the hearing, shall be provided with all the relevant information and be invited to attend.
- The Panel shall consist of the Chairman and two other members of the Competitions Committee, who, through their own club affiliation, do not have an interest in the outcome of the case other than to see that the decision is fair and just.
- The Competitions Committee shall state the case to be answered.
- The Club shall state their position.
- The Panel shall retire to consider their decision.
- The decision and the rationale behind it shall be conveyed to the Club and subsequently put in writing to them normally within 7 days of the hearing.

The written judgment should include:

- Details of the Panel.
- Details of those Attending.
- Details of the Case to be answered.
- A List of any Documentary Evidence Received.
- A Summary of the Evidence Presented at the Hearing.
- An Analysis of that Evidence that leads to the Findings of the Panel.
- A Statement of the Findings.
- Details of the Right of Appeal.
- In the event that the Club is not satisfied with the decision taken by the Panel they have the right to appeal to the GRFU See Appendix 9.

Operating procedure Appendix 9

Appeals Process and Procedures

Appeals against the GRFU or its Committees & sub Committees

Appeals against the GRFU or its Committee or sub Committee shall be dealt with by the Appeals, Awards and Advisory Panel which is appointed as stated in A5.1. In the case of a decision by a Committee or sub Committee, the Appeal must be lodged by the Club Secretary within 72 hours of being informed of the decision the Committee or sub Committee. The Panel will comprise members who have no declared involvement in the case or the appellant parties. The Panel will be chaired by the President, an Officer or a senior member of the GRFU. An administration fee for the Appeal of £100 is to be paid by the appellant at the time of lodging the Appeal. Failure to meet the requirements for submitting an Appeal will render the Appeal void.

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The principles of natural justice will be followed. The appellant shall be notified of the arrangements for the Appeal meeting and invited to attend, with a representative if required, and provide, in advance of the meeting, such submissions in support of the Appeal as may be considered relevant. The GRFU, the Committee or sub Committee shall provide all relevant documentation and be invited to attend to present their case. The Panel will inform the appellant of the result of the Appeal and also in writing through the County Administrator and the rationale behind the decision. The written judgment is normally to be sent to the appellant within 7 days of the hearing. If the Appeal is upheld then the administration fee will be refunded. In the event that the appellant is not satisfied with the decision taken by the GRFU Appeals, Awards and Advisory Panel, the appellant has the right to make a final Appeal to the RFU as set out in the RFU Handbook. (Currently as of September 2010 stated in Regulation 13.10.10).

Natural Justice and Fairness

The overriding consideration in the conduct of appeals and hearings is that they should be just and fair. The panel must at all times observe the rules of natural justice relating the conduct of the hearing process

The panel must be:

1. Impartial, that is free of prejudice or bias and not has an interest in the outcome other than to see that the decision is fair.
2. Careful and thorough in their consideration of the procedures and evidence.

All decisions together with the reasons for those decisions should be recorded in writing.