

LONDON PRIMARY, JUNIOR & YOUTH LEAGUE - COMPETITION RULES 2025

APPLICABLE OPERATIONAL RULES

1. The “London Primary, Junior & Youth League” (LPJYL) sits within tier five of the RFL competition structure. All teams participating in the LPJYL are bound by the [RFL Operational Rules](#) for Tiers Four, Five and Six (Operational Rules).

2. MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 Membership of the LPJYL is open to all clubs playing rugby league within the London and South East Region who are capable of meeting Annual Entry Criteria as specified by the LPJYL Management Group.
- 2.2 Applications from new clubs must be submitted to the Competition Administrator by 31st January each year. Membership shall be granted to a club for one season only and all clubs must reapply for membership each year.
- 2.3 The annual subscription for membership of the league shall be £125 per club, £30 per Junior/Youth team and £20 per Primary team at the club. This includes entry into the League’s relevant competitions and festivals.
- 2.4 Subscription for membership of the League shall be reviewed annually and paid by the beginning of April each season. Any team not having paid its annual subscription by the beginning of April will not be allocated competitive fixtures or able to attend festivals for the remainder of the season until such fees are paid.
- 2.5 Each Club will be required to ensure that the Volunteers listed below are appropriately qualified (where applicable) and registered on GameDay:
 - Coaches (Licensed)
 - Team Manager
 - Club Welfare Officer
 - First Aiders
 - Game Day Manager
 - Club Secretary
 - Club Chair

3. START AND END DATE OF THE COMPETITION

- 3.1 The LPJYL Management Group shall determine the commencement date of its competition and the date upon which it shall cease.

4. STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

- 4.1 The RFL, in conjunction with the LPJYL Management Group, will determine the structure of the competition including its format, size and play-off structure.
- 4.2 If two or more clubs finish level on points at the end of a season the application of competition rule 4.10.2 will decide which team finishes above the other.

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- 4.3 If a club withdraws from the League having failed to complete 50% of its scheduled games, then the club's record shall be expunged. If a club completes 50% or more of its scheduled games, the points for any remaining games will be awarded to the opponents in line with competition rule 4.10.3.
- 4.4 If a club is expelled or suspended, its record will be expunged, irrespective of how many games that club has played.
- 4.5 Only players who are registered to the club and have played 2 or more League or Cup fixtures for their respective team are eligible to participate in the play-off stages of the league competition or Cup finals.
- 4.6 In all the League's cup and play off competitions, should the scores be level at the end of normal time then golden point extra time should be played (in 10-minute periods until the first score).
- 4.7 At least 72 hours shall elapse between all semi-finals and finals where the same team may be involved.
- 4.8 Trophies for the Finals will be supplied by the RFL.
- 4.9 The Grand/Plate Finals will be hosted at a venue chosen by the LPJL Management Group and they will liaise with host on requirements for hosting.
- 4.10 **League Tables**
- 4.10.1 The League competition tables shall be compiled by the RFL, the positions in which shall be determined by the number of competition points gained, with points being awarded as follows: two points for each Match won; and one point for each Match drawn. If team A cannot provide a squad of 9 or more registered players for a fixture where team B can provide 9 or more registered players, the competition points will automatically be awarded to team B and a 36-0 victory will be recorded. This game will then be played as a friendly fixture and should go ahead.
- 4.10.2 The League placings will be determined and calculated as follows:
- The club with the highest number of points shall be at the top of the league table and the club with the lowest shall be at the bottom.
 - Where clubs have an equal number of points their relative positions shall be determined by points difference so that the club having the greater points difference is placed above the club with the lesser points difference.
 - Where clubs have an equal number of points, and their points difference is equal then relative positions shall be determined by the head-to-head record in League matches only. Where their head-to-head record is even then the aggregate score of all head-to-head league fixtures will decide the team on top.

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- If the positions are still equal, positions will be determined by the toss of a coin which shall be conducted at such time and place as the RFL shall direct and those clubs concerned shall be entitled to witness the toss.

4.10.3 The notional score in forfeited games shall be 36-0, plus a points deduction of 2 points from the offending team's total.

5. FIXTURES

5.1 All games must be played as per the fixture list, or the points for such games forfeited, unless an alternative date mutually agreeable by both teams and the Competition Officer can be sought.

5.2 Any club wishing to rearrange a fixture must consult their opponents, agree a new date and complete a fixture amendment form. The completed fixture amendment form must be forwarded to the Competition Officer for their approval. If both clubs cannot agree on a rescheduled day/date, then the fixture will go ahead on the original date set out on the fixture list.

5.3 Where programmed into the fixture program, backlog dates should not be considered as a free weekend and teams should be prepared to be allocated fixtures on these dates.

5.4 Any club desiring to arrange a friendly must seek permission from the Competition Officer. No friendly fixtures shall be arranged on a league fixture date without prior approval of the Competition Officer.

5.5 Clubs must accept fixtures given at seven days' notice by the Competition Officer.

5.6 If a team fails to participate in a fixture organised by the League's Competition Officer and an agreement to rearrange the fixture can't be made, the club that cancels will automatically lose 36-0. The team that cancels will also be subject to a 2 points deduction.

5.7 Any club with more than one team at home, in any competition, must provide an alternative pitch in case of a clash of fixtures.

5.8 Where a club plays its home fixtures on a pitch that is the property of a school or a local authority and a fixture is called off by the landlords, then the club involved must obtain a certificate signed by a person of authority certifying that the ground is unfit for play. If no certificate is received by the Competition Officer within seven (7) days, then the game will be awarded to their opponents.

5.9 Postponements

5.9.1 Postponements will not be considered because of injuries, or any other matter not considered exceptional.

5.9.2 In the event of the home club suspecting that its ground will not be fit for play owing to adverse weather conditions or other cause, the home club must carry out a ground inspection by two club officials.

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If the official deems the ground unfit for play and determines that it is unlikely to become playable before the scheduled kick-off, this decision must be communicated immediately to:

- The visiting club,
- The appointed Match Official, and
- The Competition Officer.

Failure to follow this procedure may result in the home club being found guilty of **Misconduct**. In addition to any sanctions, the home club will be responsible for reimbursing reasonable travel expenses incurred by any Match Official or club that was not notified in accordance with this rule.

5.9.3 In the case of both a no-fault or mutually agreed postponement, if clubs cannot agree a new date within 14 days of the original postponement, then the Competition Officer will issue a new date for the fixture. If the new fixture is not played as instructed by the Competition Officer, the points will be awarded to the non-offending team.

5.9.4 When a game is unable to go ahead as scheduled, **BOTH** teams should notify the Competition Officer via email to confirm if the game is being postponed until a later date or conceded and the points claimed by the opposing side.

5.9.5 All postponements must be notified to the Competition Officer by 5pm on the day of the game.

6. PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

6.1 All players should annually register to the club using the RFL GameDay system. The League will circulate a link to the registration portal to all clubs to commence the registration process. During this process, a Player must become an Our League Active member.

6.2 Unlimited players can register per team in the LPJYL, however, 15 is the minimum number per team and scheduled fixtures will be refused until 15 players are registered for teams playing 13 a-side from Under 12's upwards. All clubs that intend to enter a structured league should ensure they have met the minimum requirements for the Under 14's and Under 16's by the pre-season 9s event held 1-week before the season commencement.

6.3 Occasionally, a club may wish to enter two teams at one age group. The LPJYL has a separate policy covering this in more detail but, for the purposes of player registrations, such a club must have 30 players registered two weeks before the annual pre-season 9s event in order to be assigned a place in the league competition.

6.4 Players will be able to play for a team they are eligible for by date of birth. This is in line with the age range policy, contained within the operational rules, where players can play for their true age and the age above.

6.5 Transfers

6.5.1 Teams may register, by transfer, three Players only per season from different Clubs (meaning one player from each club). The Management Group may relax this rule, at their discretion, as deemed appropriate to meet the needs of the Competition.

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- 6.5.2 If it is agreeable by ALL concerned that two players are allowed to transfer from one club to another in any season, then that will be their quota for that season. The Management Group may relax this rule, at their discretion, as deemed appropriate to meet the needs of the Competition.
- 6.5.3 It is the responsibility of the new Club to initiate the transfer. The parent/guardian has final sign off of the transfer. The process must be completed in full, including parent/guardian sign off, before a player can play. The Competition Officer will communicate further details on the process.
- 6.5.4 The deadline date for transferring of players shall be the **1st July each year**.

7. MATCH DAY OPERATIONS

- 7.1 All games shall, unless there is mutual agreement between competing clubs to the contrary, be organised and staged on Saturday morning. Kick-off times will start no earlier than 10am and no later than 1pm unless full agreement has been obtained and both sides are happy to proceed with this arrangement. Clubs should be conscious of other games taking place (inc open age fixtures) and where possible work in with them to support referee availability etc. With any change, take into consideration the match official and update them accordingly on any changes.
- 7.2 To maintain the continuity of the playing program the Competition Officer shall be empowered, if necessary, to bring forward to an earlier date, fixtures scheduled for later in the season.
- 7.3 All Youth & Junior games are to have a Technical Area marked out with either field markings or cones. Coaches must stay in marked Technical Areas at all times. Substitutes must remain in the technical area and wear bibs.
- 7.4 All referee appointments will be made centrally and notified to appointed club contacts in advance of fixtures. If no central match official appointment is available, then the responsibility to arrange a suitably qualified match official reverts to the home team. Both teams must agree before the day for a certain person to be the match official whether it be a match official provided by the home team, the away team, another club/referee society, club coach or the duties are to be shared, one half each per team (with a toss of the coin to decide who has does first half and second half).
- 7.5 Team Sizes**
- 7.5.1 13 a side fixtures are always desired at U12s-U18s. This may require the temporary loan of players; all coaches should encourage this philosophy. If this cannot be achieved, equal numbers should be played. The pitch size should also be reduced to reflect this. Matches should not be played with uneven numbers, unless a sin-bin or sending off has occurred.
- 7.5.2 There is no limit on the number of players that can be chosen to play on a match day, however, it is up to the coaches to manage this. Coaches should try and ensure everybody gets at least half a game. The only exception being in Finals, where a maximum of 20 players can be selected, this can however be increased providing both teams are in agreement.

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7.6 Match Length and Ball Size

Timings:

U7: As directed in the Primary Rugby League rules (School Year 1 and 2) Size 3 ball

U9: As directed in the Primary Rugby League rules (School Year 3 and 4) Size 3 ball

U11: As directed in the Primary Rugby League rules (School Year 5 and 6) Size 4 ball

U12: **20** minutes each way. (minimum HT interval of 5 min) Size 4 ball

U14: **25** Minutes each way. (minimum HT interval of 5 min) Size 5 ball

U16: **30** Minutes each way. (minimum HT interval of 5 min) Size 5 ball

U18: **35** minutes each way. (minimum HT interval of 5 min) Size 5 ball

7.7 Contacting Opponents and Kit Obligations

7.7.1 In accordance with the Operational Rules it is the responsibility of the home Club, during the week preceding a game, to contact both its opponents and the relevant Match Officials regarding team colours and ground directions by no later than 8pm on the Wednesday before the following weekend's fixture. Away clubs should acknowledge any correspondence received and confirm their intention to travel, no later than 24 hours before the scheduled kick off time.

7.7.2 In the event there is a clash of colours the away team must wear an alternative strip.

7.8 Medical Requirements

7.8.1 It is the requirement of each home club to ensure that a First Aider is in attendance at each game. The first aider should make themselves known to the Match Official before the start of any Match and shall remain for a minimum of 15 minutes after the end of the Game. They should liaise with MO's, Coaches and any other relevant parties if necessary, to ensure that the correct reporting paperwork is completed. In the event that there is no first aider then the match official will not permit a game to take place. Where possible it is recommended that each team has its own First Aider.

7.8.2 First aiders should be listed on the team sheet and are required to register on the GameDay system as a volunteer.

7.8.3 In the event a player sustains an injury to the head or displays signs or symptoms of concussion, the Match Official will stop the game and ask for the first aider to attend to them. If the first aider suspects concussion the player **MUST** be removed from the field of play and remain off the field of play. If the player refuses to follow the first aider's advice, then the Match Officials can hold up play until the player follows the instruction of the first aider. Advice for managing concussion can be found [HERE](#). The RFL is supportive of and follows the SRA concussion guidance – please read through the guidance in full [HERE](#) and ensure they are applied to matches and training at all times.

7.9 Reporting Injuries and Concussion

7.9.1 In the event there is a serious injury or concussion at a Match this must be reported using the GameDay system. Reports are added in the post-game section which is the same area as where results are added. It is imperative that any head injuries are reported on the system as this information has to be provided to the insurers.

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7.10 Post Match Arrangements

7.10.1 The home club is not required to provide food and refreshments after the game due to the challenges this can create. However, the home club must make the travelling team aware if there will be food and refreshments provided, available to buy, or whether it is advisable for players to bring their own.

7.11 Team Sheet and Reporting Results

7.11.1 Teams will be required to enter their team sheet on Gameday no later than 30 minutes before the scheduled KO time, this should include shirt numbers and positions. Any changes after that point must be reported to the Match Official on the day.

7.11.2 It is the responsibility of both clubs to ensure that the team sheet information, is updated on Gameday, within 48 hours following the completion of the game. Details of the player of the match from both the participating clubs must also be included. The failure of a club to complete and return team sheets correctly will incur a £10 administration fine.

7.11.3 It is the home team's responsibility to enter the full-time result information onto Gameday within 60 minutes of game completion. Failure to do so may result in a £10 administration fine. For the avoidance of doubt prior to inserting the result, both Clubs must agree with the Match Official the final result.

7.11.4 Results will be capped with a maximum 50-point differential. The true result will be recorded on your own club website, but when entering the score onto GameDay the 50-point difference will apply e.g. a 72-10 result will be registered on the system as 60-10.

7.12 Abandonment of Games

7.12.1 If a game is abandoned with more than three-quarters of the playing time elapsed, the result shall stand unless otherwise determined by the LPJYL Management Group. If less than three-quarters of the playing time have elapsed the LPJYL Management Group, at its sole discretion, may order a game to be re-played.

7.13 Playing Rules:

U12s-U18s age groups within the London Youth, Junior and Primary League will operate in line with the domestic Laws of the Game which can be found [HERE](#).

Note: In Under 12s games, after a score (try, penalty or drop goal) the game is re-started with a tap on the half-way line by the non-scoring team

U7s-U11s age groups will operate in line with Primary Rugby League rules and ethos which can be found [HERE](#).

*Playing rules will be sent out ahead of each Primary Rugby League Festival.

8. DISCIPLINE, SUSPENSIONS AND FINES

8.1 A LPJYL discipline panel is in place to deal with all discipline matters arising, in accordance with section D of the Operational Rules. The disciplinary panel shall have the full power to expel, suspend and/or fine any club, player, official or other person, subject to the Operational

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Rules, found guilty of misconduct and/or breach of these rules and/or breach of the Operational Rules and to order them to meet any costs incurred.

- 8.2 A written report of a Match Official on the misconduct of any club, player or official must be sent via email to the LPJL Chair with a copy to the offending club for receipt inside 48 hours from the conclusion of the game.
- 8.3 Reports of brawling – defined as three or more players involved - should via email be sent by the Match Official, for receipt within 48 hours of a game's conclusion, to the LPJL Chair. Separate copies of the report must be lodged by the Match Official with the clubs concerned.
- 8.4 Any club which does not receive from the Match Official within 48 hours a report outlining a dismissal or brawl having occurred should contact the LPJL Chair immediately. The failure of a club to receive a written report will not prevent action being dealt by the relevant discipline committee.
- 8.5 A reported club, player, official or any other person may, to defend an allegation of misconduct, send a letter for receipt by the LPJL Chair within seven days of the date of the match. The club or such persons may in their own defence request a personal appearance and/or bring witnesses and/or submit written mitigation, to the hearing, if they notify the LPJL Chair within seven days of the alleged offence and send a deposit of £20.00 which must be paid to the RFL by bank transfer. The deposit shall be refunded after the hearing, provided that the appellant or their designated representative attends in person and they are found not guilty.
- 8.6 Unedited video evidence shall be an accepted method through which to defend or confirm the alleged actions that have been reported to the committee by a Match Official.
- 8.7 Should a case of alleged assault by a player, club official or spectator be lodged it will be reported to the LPJL Chair by a Match Official. The Match Official will then be instructed to make himself available to the disciplinary committee, for the purposes of interview, due notice of which shall be given in writing. A Match Official shall in such circumstances be entitled to claim reasonable travel expenses.
- 8.8 A suspension will commence with immediate effect and a suspended player is prohibited from participating in any Rugby League game until the following conditions are met:
- Any imposed fines are fully paid as per rule 8.10.
 - The suspension is served in full.
 - The Notification of Games Served Form is completed, submitted to, and approved by the Competition Officer.

Failure to comply with this rule will result in a minimum fine of £100 for the player or club. Additionally, the offending player may face further suspension and will remain ineligible to play until all fines are paid.

If a club fields a suspended player and wins the game, any competition points gained will be automatically forfeited.

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The LJL Management Group reserves the right to impose further sanctions if deemed appropriate. These may include suspending or expelling the offending club from the competition.

- 8.9 All organised competition games, (including SRL fixtures, and RFL representative games) provided that they were arranged before the player's offence may be counted towards his list of suspended games.
- 8.10 All fines, payable to the RFL must be settled within 28 days and must be forwarded to the RFL and a notification of the fine paid sent to the LPJL Chair. Failure to meet this obligation shall result in the fine being doubled automatically. If a further seven days elapse without receipt of payment, then the club's fixtures will be suspended.

9. APPEALS

- 9.1 All appeals against disciplinary sanctions imposed by the LPJYL are to be dealt with by an independent RFL appointed panel.
- 9.2 If a player wishes to appeal against a decision they shall not be permitted to play in any Match until their appeal has been heard.
- 9.3 Clubs wishing to appeal a decision must do so within 7 days of the decision being issued. The appeal must include:
- A £40.00 fee, payable to the "RFL"; and
 - A written letter explaining the grounds for the appeal.

Both the fee and the letter must be submitted to the Competition Officer within the specified time frame.

- 9.4 The only grounds for appeal are that the original Disciplinary Panel:
- i) came to a decision to which no reasonable body could have come; or
 - ii) failed to act fairly in a procedural sense; or
 - iii) the sanction imposed was so excessive or lenient as to be unreasonable.
- 9.5 The Notice of Appeal must include any fresh evidence the Appellant wishes to introduce. The Appellant must also provide reasons why this evidence is relevant, credible, and was unavailable at the original hearing. Fresh evidence will only be admitted with the permission of the Disciplinary Appeals Panel. Permission will generally only be granted if the evidence meets the outlined criteria and is submitted alongside the Notice of Appeal.
- 9.6 An appeal shall be heard by way of review and shall not be a de novo hearing.
- 9.7 The Disciplinary Appeals Panel shall have all the same powers as the Disciplinary Panel in relation to evidence, experts, witnesses and conduct of proceedings, as well as the power to:
- (a) dismiss the appeal.
 - (b) quash a sanction or finding.
 - (c) remit the matter for rehearing.
 - (d) substitute an alternative finding or sanction.
 - (e) reduce or increase the original sanction; or
 - (f) make such orders as it considers appropriate

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Fresh evidence may only be presented to the Disciplinary Appeals Panel with its permission

- 9.8 No member of the Discipline Panel is actively involved in a decision taken at the initial hearing other than the Competition Officer - who has no voting rights - shall be permitted to adjudicate on matters that will be the subject of appeal.