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| **Rugby League Competitions Minimum Operating Standards**  **2016-17 Season**  These minimum operating standards should be used as a checklist when determining the level at which a college wishes to play and will. Once a college has determined the level at which they wish to compete they will be expected to adhere to all the required operating standards. | **Rugby League**  **(All Divisions)** |
| **Parking** | * Parking should be available on or adjacent to the ground |
| **Playing Area** | * All matches should be played on grass or synthetic pitches provided they meet the RFL specifications and all lines should be clearly marked. The pitch should be well maintained and the grass regularly mown to an acceptable length. |
| **Refreshments** | * The home college shall provide suitable hospitality and refreshments upon confirmation from the away team they wish to take advantage of such arrangements, irrelevant of the distance. |
| **Changing facilities (Players)** | * Separate, secure and well maintained dressing rooms must be provided for both teams, comprising of: * Shared shower and toilet facilities are permissible |
| **Changing facilities (Match Officials)** | * Match officials should have access to their own separate, secure and well maintained (and separate for male & female) changing facilities with access to their own showers and WC cubicle. |
| **Standard of Officials** | * 1 neutral referee must be provided and where possible 2 qualified touch judges |
| **Team Staffing** | * Minimum of 2 staff on match days, including the first aider * Head Coach to be qualified to RFL Level 2 |
| **Medical** | * There must be a responsible adult in attendance with first aid qualification. This should not be the Head Coach * A first aid policy should be in place |
| **Educational Model** | * All players must be over the age of 16 and under the age of 19 at midnight on 31 August in the academic year of participation * All players must be studying a full time programme of a minimum of 450 hours per year * Strength & conditioning and performance analysis must be included * The number of matches played by each player must be tracked to prevent overplay |
| **Player Registration** | * All players must be registered prior to playing in the AoC Sport rugby competitions. |
| **Protocol** | * Match day detail to be provided by the home team at least 7 days in advance of the fixture (name and post code of ground, directions, start time, colours) * The home team must provide a match day delegate to welcome and assist the away team * The home team must upload the result of the match to Fixtures Live within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match * A team sheet for each match must be completed and a copy sent to AoC Sport within 2 days of the match |
| **Administration** | * An administrator must be identified for each team who will be the first point of contact for AoC Sport |
| **Quality Standards** | * A minimum of 2 high quality match balls must be provided |
| **Non-compulsory standards** | * Matches should be filmed * Provision should be made for the away team to film matches * Other students to be used as volunteers to support areas such as filming, social media, provision of refreshments, and administration * Players should be encouraged to maintain a diary to record the number of matches played for college and club, injuries sustained and personal targets |