

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE U19'S COMPETITION RULES 2024

1. APPLICABLE RULES

- 1.1 The "Women's Super League U19's" (WSL) sits within tier five of the RFL competition structure. All teams participating in the WSL are bound by the RFL Operational Rules for Tiers Four, Five and Six (Operational Rules) save that the Medical Standards is a reserved case pursuant to those Rules and is dealt with in accordance with the Tiers 1 to 3 Operational Rules.

2. MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 Membership shall be granted to a club every season the team is Women's Super League, and one season following relegation from Women's Super League.
- 2.2 Each Club will be required to ensure that the Volunteers listed below are appropriately qualified (where applicable) and registered on GameDay:
- Coaches
 - Club Welfare Officer
 - Game Day Manager
 - Medical Staff – As per 7.7.1

3. START AND END DATE OF THE COMPETITION

- 3.1 The RFL shall determine the commencement date of its competition and the date upon which it shall cease. These dates will fit between the 1st March and 30th September in any year.

4. STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

- 4.1 The purpose of the games is to provide a developmental playing opportunity for girls aged U19, for the avoidance of doubt the games will not be part of a league structure.
- 4.2 The RFL, in conjunction with the clubs, will determine the structure of the competition including its format and size.
- 4.3 The RFL reserves the right to amend the competition structure and fixture list.
- 4.4 Clubs are encouraged to talk each other to ensure games take place, if needs be games can be played with lower numbers or moved to mutually agreeable alternate date. It is about the development opportunity and not results.

5. FIXTURES

- 5.1 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. When arranging a new date clubs need to consider the impact on the community game.
- 5.2 Clubs must accept fixtures given at seven days' notice by the Competition Officer.
- 5.3 Any club failing to fulfil a fixture must pay reasonable expenses to the non-offending club, as determined by the RFL. This may include the referee's full fee and expenses. For the

avoidance of doubt, if a game is called off after 5pm on a Friday for a weekend fixture, or 5pm the day before a midweek fixture, then this rule will come into force.

- 5.4 Any club which fails to notify their opponents of its inability to raise a team 180 minutes before the scheduled kick-off, shall also be liable to pay any expenses, up to a maximum of £40, which their opponents may incur, including kit washing, or medical costs such as strapping.
- 5.5 In the case of a home club failing to fulfil a fixture, a visiting club that has travelled, may claim up to a maximum of £100 towards transport costs.

5.6 Postponements

- 5.6.1 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 immediately call a Match Official on the approved list recognised by the RFL to carry out a ground inspection. If the Match Official states the ground is not fit for play, and in their opinion, there is no chance of it being so before the scheduled kick off, then that decision must be communicated immediately to the visiting Club, appointed Match Official and the Competition Officer. Any Club failing to fulfil this instruction may be guilty of Misconduct and in addition to any sanction will be responsible for the reimbursement of reasonable travel expenses incurred by any Match Official or Club not so notified.
- 5.6.2 All postponements made in accordance with 5.6.1 must be notified to the Competition Officer within 1 hour of the decision being made.
- 5.6.3 Where a Match does not take place because the away Club fails to turn up then in addition to such Club being found guilty of misconduct it shall also be liable to pay £50 compensation towards refreshment costs.

6. PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

- 6.1.1 Players who are selected to play in the Under-19's Competition remain registered with their Community Club and will be permitted into the Under-19's. Any player who wishes to play in the Women's Super League Competition would require a transfer but could be permitted back to their Community Club.
- 6.1.2 Clubs are only allowed to register 25 players to their U19 squads and fifteen is the minimum number match day team, scheduled fixtures will be refused until 15 players are registered.
- 6.1.3 To play in the U19's games players need to have been born on or before **31st August 2007** and no earlier than **1st September 2004**. This competition is for true age U17's, U18's and U19's.

7. MATCH DAY OPERATIONS

- 7.1 Games have been scheduled in the main, midweek, to avoid clashes with other fixtures. There are two weekend fixtures dates in the fixtures. Wednesday evening fixtures will kick-off at 6.30pm. Weekend fixtures are scheduled for Sundays at 1.00pm, the RFL are flexible for this to move to Saturday should both teams agree. If any fixture needs to be moved the Competition Officer must be notified at least one week prior to the scheduled fixture.
- 7.2 To maintain the continuity of the playing programme the Competition Officer shall be empowered, if necessary, to bring forward to an earlier date fixtures scheduled for later in the season.
- 7.3 Games will be 60 minutes long of two 30 minute halves, ball will be size 5.

7.4 Contacting Opponents and Kit Obligations

- 7.4.1 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.
- 7.4.2 In the event there is a clash of colours the away team must wear an alternative strip.

7.5 Team Sizes

- 7.5.1 A maximum of 20 players may be named for each side taking part in a fixture.

7.6 Technical Areas

All non-playing personnel and interchanges must remain in the designated technical area throughout the Match. They are not permitted to station themselves around the field, other than when managing a player, who has been removed from play, or when time management principles have been implemented (other than tracking physios) and are subject at all times to the control of the Match Officials.

7.7 Medical Requirements

- 7.7.1 It is the requirement of each Home Club to ensure that a doctor or equivalent (IMMOFP) and a physiotherapist or equivalent (i-IMMOFP as a minimum) are present (in accordance with A5f of the RFL Medical Standards; definitions of medical staff terms as per A2). It is the requirement of the away team to have a Physiotherapist or Equivalent (i-IMMOFP as a minimum) and a i-IMMOFP trained member of staff (Mandated) or where dispensation is granted by the CMO, L3 Qualified First Aider who must travel with the players on the return journey in case of delayed concussion or other injuries/medical emergencies.
- 7.7.2 For training session teams must ensure that a I-IMMOFP Qualified Physiotherapist or Equivalent with a current IMMOFP qualification is present (Best Practice) otherwise it is Mandatory to have a Qualified First Aider present with a minimum Level 3 qualification.
NB: The qualified First Aider must be registered with the RFL on GameDay.

All Clubs must ensure that mandatory staffing levels are considered with particular emphasis when dual training sites are used simultaneously.

7.8 Managing Concussion

- 7.8.1 Each WSL clubs' Under 19s players must have a SCAT6 assessment, establish a valid Cognigram baseline (clubs can use the Cognigram account already set up for the Men's competition for this purpose) and follow the Professional Game Head Injury Assessment and Return to Play protocols, including all reporting requirements. Medical Standards Section E - Concussion & Management of Head Injuries regulations refer (exceptions: E3.2 pitch-side replay system & concussion spotters).

7.9 Post Match Arrangements

- 7.9.1 The home club shall be responsible for supplying all the competing players, club officials and appointed Match Officials with a suitable post-match meal. The visiting club is obligated to accept such hospitality.
- 7.9.2 In the case of away clubs failing to fulfil a fixture the home club may also claim up to a maximum of £50 towards refreshment costs. Any club which will not be requiring refreshments should notify its opponents in advance of the game, otherwise the club will be liable to pay £50 compensation to the home club.

7.10 Team Sheets and Reporting Results

- 7.10.1 Official team sheets must be completed correctly before the commencement of matches and shall be signed by a recognised official from each club and the Match Official.
- 7.10.2 Completed team sheets should include the full forename and surname (no initials), of all participants and must be sent by the home club official to the Competition Officer. 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.
- 7.10.3 It is the responsibility of both clubs to ensure that the team sheet information, including point scorers and result information is entered on the RFL GameDay system within 48 hours following the completion of the game. Failure to do so will result in an £10 administration fine. For the avoidance of doubt prior to inserting the result both Club must agree with the Match Official the final result.

7.11 Abandonment of Games

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

8. DISCIPLINE, SUSPENSIONS AND FINES

- 8.1 A WSL discipline panel is in place to deal with all discipline matters arising. 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 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 from the Match Official on the misconduct of any club, player or official must be sent via email to the Competition Officer 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 be sent by the Match Official, for receipt within 48 hours of a game's conclusion, via email to the Competition Officer. 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 Competition Officer 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 Competition Officer 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 Competition Officer 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 DVD 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 Club secretaries or their deputies, pursuant to the hearing, having not received a verdict after five days, should contact the Competition Officer regarding the result.
- 8.8 Should a case of alleged assault by a player, club official or spectator be lodged it will be reported to the Competition Officer 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.
- 8.9 A player's suspension will start on the Saturday after the hearing took place unless the Competition Officer notifies the player or club otherwise with the exception of any suspension of six matches or more which shall take immediate effect. In the event a player with a suspension of 6 or more games wishes to appeal, they will not be permitted to resume playing until the appeal is heard.
- 8.10 All organised competition games, (including University and College RL fixtures, and RFL representative games) provided that they were arranged prior to the player's offence may be counted towards her list of suspended games.
- 8.11 A suspended player is not permitted to play in any other game of Rugby League until any fines are paid and his suspension is served, and the completed Notification of Games Served Form has been completed and received and approved by the Competition Officer. Any player or club violating this rule will be fined not less than £100. The offending player may also incur an additional suspension and will not be able to play until such time as the fine is paid. In the event of a game having been won by a club fielding a player under suspension then the competition points gained shall be forfeited automatically. The Management Group, should it deem appropriate, reserves the right to apply other sanctions which may include a club's suspension or expulsion from the competition.
- 8.12 All fines, payable to the RFL must be settled within 28 days and must be forwarded to the Competition Officer. 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 WSL are to be dealt with by an independent RFL appointed panel.
- 9.2 Clubs have the right to appeal within 7 days of a decision made only if they have attended the disciplinary panel meeting or submitted a written defence. A £40.00 fee, payable to the "RFL", should be submitted together with an accompanying letter outlining the reason why the appeal is sought. This must be forwarded to the Competition Officer.
- 9.3 An appeal by a club may be based solely on the following grounds: a) the finding of guilt or b) the severity of sentence imposed.

- 9.4 No member of the WSL Disciplinary Panel 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 which will be the subject of appeal.
- 9.5 Adjudication by the Appeals Panel precludes the right of individual players or their clubs towards seeking a further representation.