

1. **APPLICABLE OPERATIONAL RULES**

- 1.1 The "Women's Super League" (WSL) sits within tier four of the RFL competition structure. All teams participating in the WSL are bound by the RFL Operational Rules for Tiers 4 to 6 (Operational Rules), save that On Field Misconduct is a reserved case pursuant to those Rules and is dealt with in accordance with section D2 of the Tiers 1 to 3 Operational Rules

2.0 **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

Each Club hereby acknowledges and agrees that the beneficial title to all copyright, trade marks (whether registered or not) and any other intellectual property rights subsisting or which may in the future subsist in the Women's Super League or any other leagues or competitions organised or controlled by the RFL and in any logo relating to or connected with any such league or competitions (the League Intellectual Property Rights) is and shall be remain the sole property of the RFL

3.0 **TABLES AND FIXTURES**

- 3.1 The WSL table shall be compiled by the RFL. The positions in which shall be determined by the number of points gained with points being awarded as follows: two points for each Match won; and one point for each Match drawn.
- 3.2 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. The points difference is calculated by subtracting the points scored against the Club from the points scored by the Club. If that still leads to a tie, then the Club with the greater points percentage during the Season will be placed in the higher position. The points percentage is calculated by dividing the number of points scored by a Club by the number of points it concedes and multiplying by 100. If the positions are still equal, positions will be determined by the toss of a coin which shall be carried out at such time and place as the RFL shall direct and those Clubs concerned shall be entitled to witness the toss.

4.0 **STRUCTURE OF COMPETITION**

- 4.1 If two or more Clubs finish level on points at the end of a season the application of competition rule 3.2 will decide which team finishes above the other.
- 4.2 If a Club is expelled or suspended, its record will be expunged, irrespective of how many games that Club has played.
- 4.3 The competition structure and format will be determined by the RFL prior to the start of each Season.
- 4.4 Only players that have played in more than one league fixture are eligible for the Play-Offs

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5. MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 Membership of the WSL shall be determined by the RFL from time to time (as it's absolute discretion) which shall include but not be limited to; (a) the Club playing under the name of a club that plays in Tier 1-3; (b) the Club meeting the Annual Entry Criteria and (c) the Club signing a participation agreement.
- 5.2 Applications from Clubs must be submitted in writing to the RFL in accordance with the timetable and procedure as set out by the RFL from time to time.
- 5.3 Each Club will be required to ensure that the Volunteers listed below are appropriately qualified (where applicable) and registered on LeagueNet:

Role	Professional Qualification	MHFA	UKAD	IMMOFP	SPC/TTL	DBS
First Grade - Head Coach	L2	MHFA Lite	N/A	N/A	SPC	Yes
First Grade Assistant Coach	L2	MHFA Lite	N/A	N/A	SPC	Yes
Player Welfare Manager	N/A	MHFA Lite	N/A	N/A	SPC	Yes
Physio ¹	Chartered physio with current HPC registration & a degree or graduate diploma in physiotherapy	MHFA Lite	UKAD Advisor	IMMOFP	N/A	Yes
Sports Therapist	Graduate Sports Therapist with an accredited degree & current member of a recognised professional body.	MHFA Lite	UKAD Advisor	IMMOFP	N/A	Yes
Sports Rehabilitator	Degree qualified, BASRAT registered.	MHFA Lite	UKAD Advisor	IMMOFP	N/A	Yes
Club Welfare Officer	N/A	MHFA Lite	N/A	N/A	SPC & TTL	Yes

6. START AND END DATE OF THE COMPETITION

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

7. PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

- 7.1.1 All players shall annually register to the Club using the RFL LeagueNet system. The League will circulate a link to the registration portal to the Clubs to commence the registration process.
- 7.1.2 Clubs will be allowed to register a maximum of 30 players at any given time and their primary registration must be with the WSL Club.
- 7.1.3 A WSL Club may, in addition to the 30-player limit, register and play up to an additional five players in its squad, provided that such player(s) have not been registered with any Club on the LeagueNet system in the previous three years. Such players will be known for the purposes of these Rules, as "Talent Transfer Players".

7.1.4 All players must be registered on the RFL LeagueNet system by 12noon on a Friday to be eligible to play on that weekend.

7.2 Transfers

7.2.1 Clubs may register or transfer players from other clubs using LeagueNet. It is the responsibility of the Club that the player is moving to, to initiate the transfer. The player has final sign off of the transfer. The process must be completed in full, including player sign off, before a player plays. The Club shall follow any other policies issued by the RFL in relation to the registration of players.

7.2.2 All players must fulfil all financial obligations to their current Club before any transfer to another Club will be permitted. This also applies to a player wishing to sign for a different Club in future seasons.

7.2.3 The deadline date for transferring of players shall be the 31st August. For the avoidance of doubt after this date Players must play for the Club who holds their primary registration, unless an application for dual registration has already been processed by the Competition Administrator.

7.3 Dual Registration with Championship & League One Clubs

7.3.1 Players who register to a WSL Club in 2020 can also register with a Championship or League 1 Club, provided that the following regulations are adhered to (for the avoidance of doubt dual registration can only take place in accordance with this rule):

7.3.1.1 A Players primary registration must be with the WSL Club.

7.3.1.2 Talent Transfer Players may dual register with any Championship or League 1 Club of their choice.

7.3.1.3 Players who are selected to play in the Under-19's Competition remain registered with their Community Club and 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

8 FIXTURES

8.1 Any Club that refuses or is unable to play a Match in accordance with the fixture list on the published date, or any rearranged date ordered by the RFL (unless the Match has been postponed due to the Ground being unfit to play, in accordance with rule 8.7) shall be guilty of Misconduct. For the avoidance of doubt, even if the RFL agrees to or orders a match to be postponed, a Club may still be found to have breached other Operational Rules (including Operational Rule D2 (c) (bringing the game into disrepute) in relation to failure to fulfil the original match in accordance with the fixture list.

8.1.1 In addition, the RFL shall decide whether a Club refusing or failing to play shall forfeit the Match and if so whether the points should be awarded to its opponents or whether the Match shall be replayed.

8.2 If there is any dispute around a fixture in respect of kick off time or venue then the RFL in its absolute discretion shall decide when and where a fixture shall be played.

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- 8.3 Matches shall only be postponed, suspended or cancelled in accordance with the Operational Rules.
- 8.4 Where programmed into the fixture programme, backlog dates should not be considered as a free weekend Teams should be prepared to be allocated fixtures on these days.
- 8.5 Postponements will not be considered because of injuries or any other matter not considered exceptional.
- 8.6 Any club desiring to arrange a friendly must seek permission from the Competition Administrator. No friendly fixtures shall be arranged on a League fixture date without prior approval of the Competition Administrator.
- 8.7 **Postponements**
- 8.7.1 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 Administrator. 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.
- 8.7.2 All postponements made in accordance with 8.7.1 must be notified to the Competition Administrator Within 1 hour of the decision being made.
- 8.7.3 Where a Match does not take place because the away Club fails to turn up then in addition to such Club being guilty of Misconduct it shall also be liable to pay £50 compensation towards refreshment costs.

9 MATCH DAY OPERATIONS

- 9.1 All games shall, unless there is mutual agreement between competing Clubs to the contrary, be organised and staged on Sunday afternoons with a kick-off time scheduled for 2.00pm. If fixtures need to be played mid-week then the Competition Administrator must be notified at least one week prior to the scheduled fixture.
- 9.1.1 TV Broadcast
As ever, any fixtures will be subject to change and there will also be an expectation of cooperation with Our League broadcast requirements.
- 9.2 To maintain the continuity of the playing programme the Competition Administrator shall be empowered, if necessary, to bring forward to an earlier date fixtures scheduled for later in the season.
- 9.3 Any Club playing in a match must comply with any match day operations manual that is issued by the RFL.

9.4 **Squad Declarations**

Each Club participating in the WSL must declare a squad, using LeagueNet, of no more than 24 Players by noon, on the Friday prior to the Match, unless directed otherwise by the RFL.

9.5 **Contacting Opponents and Kit Obligations**

9.5.1 In accordance with the Operational Rules it is the responsibility of the home Club, during the week preceding a game, to contact its opponents regarding team colours and ground directions.

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

9.6 **Team Sizes and Interchanges**

9.6.1 A maximum of 17 players may be named for each side taking part in a Super League fixture, play-off games and final.

9.6.2 For WSL Matches the rules regarding substitutes will be as follows:

- Each Club shall be allowed to make 10 interchanges, from the 4 replacements that are named on the official team sheet
- A replaced player must have left the field of play before the interchange player takes her place on the field.
- If a Club decides to interchange a player that is bleeding and has left the field of play, this interchange will be included as one of the interchanges allowable for that team.
- If a Player is fouled by an opponent and that player is dismissed from the field of play or sin binned, or placed on report, and a fouled player is injured as a direct result of the incident or tackle causing her to leave the field immediately, then this interchange will not be included as one of the interchanges allowable for the Club. If the fouled player subsequently returns to the field of play later in the match, that interchange will be included as one of the interchanges allowable for that team.
- Each Club will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the interchange procedure.
- Failure to comply will result in an investigation and may be deemed Misconduct
- Where a player is to be interchanged at half time the Club shall inform the Match Official of such interchange.
- Should the Match Official become aware of the interchange procedure he should deal with such breach in accordance with the Laws of the Game and also report the matter to the Compliance Manager by 9am on the first business day following the match.

9.7 **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.

9.8 Match Footage

It shall be the responsibility of the RFL to record the entire Match, from kick off until all players have left the field of play at the conclusion of the Match. Such footage should be uploaded onto the RFL server in accordance within the directive of the RFL.

9.9 Medical Requirements

9.9.1 Home Games

It is not mandatory but is considered best practice that the home Club must have an appropriately qualified Physiotherapist or Equivalent as outlined in the RFL Medical Standards present in the dressing room before and after the match and on the bench (save when providing treatment) during the match, together with the Mandatory Medical Equipment, (MME).

Away Games

It is not mandatory but is considered best practice that the away Club must have an appropriately qualified Physiotherapist or Equivalent as outlined in the RFL Medical Standards present in the dressing room before and after the match and on the bench (save when providing treatment) during the match, together with the Mandatory Medical Equipment, (MME).

9.10 Cardiac Screening

Cardiac screening of Rugby League players has been introduced in order to identify those players who may have conditions that will predispose them to sudden cardiac death. It is compulsory for all Clubs to take part in the RFL organised cardiac screening programme or to arrange their own appropriate screening. It is not compulsory (though strongly recommended) that each player registered at the Club at the time of the screen agrees to undertake the screening. Where a player makes an informed decision to refuse the screening he must complete a waiver form (in the format provided by the RFL) which must be submitted to the RFL.

All results from screening (or waivers) must be provided to the RFL.

Where a player is diagnosed as having a cardiac abnormality then subject to the specialist's opinion and advice, which shall be paramount, and after a thorough education process, usually a Player may if he wishes make an informed decision to continue to play in which case he must sign a deed of waiver in such form as the RFL requires. It is the responsibility of the club Doctor or Equivalent to make sure that all the club's medical team and the club Doctor or Equivalent of any subsequent club are aware of such a cardiac condition.

9.11 Post Match Arrangements

9.11.1 The home Club shall be responsible for supplying all the competing players, Club officials and appointed Match Officials with a suitable post-match meal.

9.12 Team Sheet and Reporting Results

- 9.12.1 Official team sheets must be completed using the LeagueNet system and printed before the commencement of matches and shall be signed by a recognised official from each Club and the Match Official.
- 9.12.3 It is the responsibility of the referee to input the match result and confirm the team lists onto the LeagueNet system.

9.13 Abandonment of Games

- 9.13.1 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, shall determine whether the result will stand, whether the game should be replayed or otherwise.

10 DISCIPLINE, SUSPENSIONS AND FINES

- 10.1 On Field Misconduct shall be dealt with by the RFL, in accordance with section D2 of the Tiers 1-3 Operational Rules.
- 10.2 Off Field Misconduct shall be dealt with by the RFL in accordance with section D of the Tiers 4-6 Operational Rules.
- 10.3 A written report from the Match Official on the alleged Misconduct of any Club, Player or official must be sent via email to the Compliance Manager by no later than the first business day.
- 10.4 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.
- 10.5 A suspended player is not permitted to play in any other game of Rugby League until any fines are paid and her suspension is served, and the completed Notification of Games Served Form has been completed and received and approved by the Competition Administrator. Any player or Club violating this rule will be fined not less than £100 and the offending player shall be suspended for a further six matches 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 RFL, should it deem appropriate, reserves the right to apply other sanctions which may include a Club's suspension or expulsion from the competition.
- 10.6 All fines, payable to the RFL must be settled within 28 days and must be forwarded to the Competition Administrator. 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.