



THE WRU NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2019-2020

COMPETITION RULES

1. **Description:** The Competition shall be called The WRU National Youth League (hereinafter “the League”)

2. **Form:** The Competition shall be played on a league basis.

a. The League will be formed into Regional Divisions. All Divisions will see teams play each other on a home or away basis only once during the season with all games to be completed no later than December 31st. The schedule to these rules sets out the Clubs that comprise each division of the League in the 2019-2020 playing season. The WRU National Youth League Champion Club will be declared after a series of play off matches to be played at the end of the season.

b. The play off matches will be played between the Clubs that win a series of playoff matches in the Cardiff Blues, Scarlets and North Wales Regions as well as the winners of the ‘A’ Divisions within the Ospreys and Dragons Region. A draw will be held to determine which Divisional winners will play in Play Offs 1, 2 and 3

It is anticipated the playoff fixtures to determine the Regional representatives will be played as soon as possible.

The venues for Play Offs 1, 2, 3 and 4, (the Final) shall be neutral venues and shall be decided by the WRU Competitions Management Committee.

The winner of the final shall be declared to be WRU National Youth League Champions.

The winners of each playoff match shall be:

- (i) The Club that has scored the greater number of points at the end of a match.
- (ii) In the event of an equal number of points being scored by each Club at the end of the match the winning Club shall be declared in the following priority:-
 - The Club that has scored the greater number of tries
 - The Club that has scored the greater number of goals

No extra time shall be played in playoff matches in which the scores are equal at full time.

If the Clubs remain tied after applying (i) and (ii) above the trophy will be shared..

3. **Eligibility**

a. **Clubs**

The Clubs that participate in the League shall be invited to do so by the Welsh Rugby Union.



b. Players

i) To be eligible to play in the League a player must be under 19 years old on 31st August, that is born on or after 1st September 2000 and must be at least 16 years old. No player will be eligible to play in the League unless he is a registered member of the Club for which he plays and the registration has been properly completed with the Welsh Rugby Union or a permit has been granted by his parent Club allowing him to play for another Club in the League or he is registered with a Regional Academy as a “tracked player” playing on permit for a Club (see iv below) or an “on the day” loan of players has been agreed between the Clubs in the manner hereinafter described.

ii) A player who transfers from one Club to another will be eligible to play for his new Club in the League provided that:-

- The transfer and registration request is received by the WRU in accordance with the WRU Player Registration and Transfer Regulations.
- The transfer and registration request is received by the WRU no later than midnight on 31st January 2020.

A player who transfers after the 31st January 2020 will not be eligible to play for his new Club in any Competition unless specific authority is granted by the Competitions Management Committee of the Union.

Players are allowed to permit for National Youth League matches with there being no limit on how many times he is allowed to permit.

A Club may play no more than three players on permit in a match with the exception of WRU “tracked” players referred to in sub clause iii the number of which may exceed two on the condition the “tracked” players are returning to their club of origin.

Permits will be allowed for a player who is registered as a Senior player with a Club to play for that Club’s Youth team providing it is the same club. However, a permit will not be allowed for a player registered only as a Senior player with one Club to play for another Club’s Youth team in a League fixture.

iii) Players who are designated as “tracked” players shall be registered with the Rugby Competitions Manager by the Regional and Academy Manager. If the Regional and Academy Manager so decides the tracked player may play on permit from him for a Club in the Youth League. There is no limit on the number of appearances a ‘Tracked’ player can make for a Youth side in a season.

iv) On the day of a match if one Club is short of players it may be loaned players by the opposing Club. There will be no limit on the number of “on the day” loan players allowed to play in a League fixture.

4. Entry conditions

Clubs participating in the League must conform to:-

- a. the rules contained herein
- b. the Memorandum and Articles of Association of The Welsh Rugby Union Limited and the Regulations and Resolutions of the Board of the WRU Limited



- c. the Bye Laws, Resolutions and Regulations relating to the Game of the World Rugby to include any trials as adopted by the WRU.
- d. the Laws of the Game (the World Rugby Under 19 Laws will apply to this League).
- e. The Welsh Rugby Union Player Registrations and Transfer Regulations

5. **Responsibility for Organisation**

- a. The League will be organised and administered by the Welsh Rugby Union.
- b. The Welsh Rugby Union shall carry out the organisation and administration of the League through Rugby Competitions Manager.
- c. The WRU's Competitions Management Committee shall consider matters of policy and settle disputes relating to the rules contained herein as they arise.
- d. When cases of an urgent nature occur the Chairman of the Competitions Management Committee, in consultation with the Rugby Competitions Manager, shall have absolute discretion to deal with these cases whether provided for herein or not. Decisions made by the Chairman of the Competitions Management Committee and the Rugby Competitions Manager in such cases shall be binding.
- e. A Club shall have the right to appeal to a Sub Committee appointed by the WRU Board of Directors against a decision of the Competitions Management Committee provided that the appeal is made in writing, addressed to the WRU Rugby Competitions Manager accompanied by a cheque for £100 made payable to the WRU and received by the Rugby Competitions Manager of the WRU no more than 10 days after the decision made by the Competitions Management Committee is delivered to a Club.
- f. A member of the Competitions Management Committee will be entitled to attend any appeal to provide the rationale for the original decision taken. The representative of the Competitions Management Committee will not be a voting member at the appeal.

6. **General Rules**

- a. **Fixtures**
 - i. All League fixtures should be played and each Club should complete its programme of League fixtures.
 - ii. **All Clubs must submit electronic team sheets for every match in the Competition.** Team sheets must be submitted prior to the start of a match and must identify players on permit, loan or dual registration and their parent Club/Regional Team. Team sheets must also be submitted to the appointed Match Official prior to the match and must also identify the tight head, loose head replacements. In addition, the Team sheets must identify the Head Coach of each team.
 - iii. Matches in the League should be played to full time except in cases where a team gains a 50-point lead. Abandoned matches must be replayed unless the Clubs mutually agree that a result may stand, and that agreement is endorsed by the Rugby Competitions Manager.
 - iv. League matches must be played on the designated dates unless postponed because of ground or weather conditions or postponed by mutual consent of the participating Clubs.
 - v. Postponed or abandoned matches must be rearranged and played no later than 31st December 2019. Notice of the agreed rearranged date must be sent by both Clubs to the



Rugby Competitions Manager in writing within 10 days of the original fixture date. If after 14 days Clubs fail to follow this procedure the Rugby Competitions Manager will set a date for the new fixture and advise both Clubs accordingly.

b. Declaration of Winners

The winners of a match will be the team that has scored the greater number of points at the end of the match.

League points will be awarded as follows:-

Win	-	4 points
Draw	-	2 points

Additionally, a bonus point will be awarded to a team that wins a match by scoring four or more tries and a team that loses a match by 7 or less points.

c. League Placings

Divisional placings will be decided based on League points gained in the season. Where Clubs have gained an equal number of League points the Club that has recorded the most wins shall be given preference. If the number of wins are equal the higher place will be determined by the results between the two Clubs in the League, the Club that won those two matches, or if the Clubs have won one match each then the Club with the most points scored in the two matches will take the higher place. If the Clubs are still equal then the Club with the higher points ratio will be the higher placed Club. The points ratio will be decided by dividing the points scored by a Club in the Youth League season by the points scored against that Club in that season.

If at the end of a season all matches in the Division have not been played and it is not possible to determine the Divisional Champion Club in the manner set out in the previous paragraph that Champion will be decided by dividing the League points gained by the league matches played and the team with the highest ratio will then be the Champion Club.

d. Duration of Play

Each match will be of 70 minutes playing time, which is 35 minutes each half (Laws of the Game – U19 variations). At half time, an interval of no more than 10 minutes is allowed.

e. Match results

The referee must submit electronically via e-mail the result of a match within 2 hours following a match.

g. Protests and disputes

Protests and disputes arising from League fixtures or the operation of the League must be made in writing to the Rugby Competitions Manager, each protest or dispute must be accompanied by a fee of £100. This fee may or may not be refunded. The Competitions Management Committee will be convened to consider such protest or dispute.

h. Penalties and Sanctions

The Competitions Management Committee may in cases where it finds a Club in default of the rules herein have authority to impose sanctions upon a Club. The Competitions Management Committee



also has the discretion to suspend any sanctions as it deems appropriate. The range of the available penalties shall be:-

- i. The deduction of League points.
- ii. The imposition of a fine
- iii. The suspension of a Club
- iv. The relegation of a Club from the Division at the end of a season
- v. Expunging a Club's playing record for the season

i. Miscellaneous Provisions

- i. If a Club elects to play with uncontested scrummages that Club will not forfeit the match. League matches may start using uncontested scrummages provided that a Club gives at least 24 hours prior notice to the opposition. The Club electing to play with uncontested scrummages must make every effort to forewarn the opposition of its intention giving at least 24 hours' notice to the opposition of this intention. If a Club elects to play with uncontested scrummages in 3 successive League matches the WRU may investigate the availability of suitably trained front row forwards in that Club and recommend ways in which the Club can in future play with contested scrummages.

The team electing to play with uncontested scrummages will be allowed to use substitutes.

- ii. In the event of a team being short of players and there being no "on the day loan" players available matches can be played with a minimum of 12 players per team. In circumstances where one Club is unable to raise 15 players the opposing Club's team shall comprise the same number of players at the start of a match.
- iii. In the event of a Club in a Youth League fixture gaining a points lead over the opponent Club of 50 points the match shall stop at that time with the Club that has a lead of 50 points being declared the winner and gaining the appropriate number of League points for that victory.
- iv. The League will operate a system where all Clubs will be allowed to operate a rolling substitution system. This is conditional on the safety of teams being maintained at all times and does not contradict the provisions relating to uncontested scrums and front row requirements.