

THIS IS OUR GAME. **THIS IS WELSH RUGBY.**
DYMA'N GÊM NI. **DYMA RYGBI CYMREIG.**

To: Clubs participating in the National Leagues 2022-23

RE: National League Rules & Regulations 2022-23 Season – Key Changes

As the countdown is almost over to begin the 2022-2023 National League Season on September 3rd, it is my pleasure to confirm that the National League Rules and Regulations have now been confirmed and verified by the Union's Community Game Board and are now available via the Library in MyWRU.

In order to ensure all Clubs are aware of the changes made, including those that came from the 2021 Competition Review regarding League structures, we felt it is important they are highlighted for your Club as it is imperative for you to be aware that there have been a number of amendments to the Regulations that will impact on the coming season.

Therefore, you will find attached a summary of the main changes made to the National League Regulations, alongside the key clause contained within the Regulations for your ease of reference.

Please be aware that for Indigo Premiership and Admiral National League games, the WRU CMC have again determined that the previous regulation whereby teams were able to reward their opponents with a 20-0 victory should they be unable to fulfil a fixture will **not** be utilized and all fixtures must be completed.

Should you have any queries or points of clarity, please feel free to get in touch with myself or Thomas Spurrier.

Yours Sincerely,



Adam Taylor
WRU Regulatory & Competitions Manager

CC: WRU Board

National League Rules & Regulations 2022-23 Season – Key Changes

Page 1-7 – Outline of League Tables and structures with promotion and relegation information

Detail around the change of League names and number of sides in each Division for the forthcoming season along with the mechanism to determine promotion from the Championship to the Premiership as well as the split of a single National Championship to a Championship East and West respectively.

For information, there will be two teams promoted from the Championship to the Premier Division subject to having the required criteria to participate and three teams promoted from each Division below that apart from Division One North, Two North and Three North East and North West respectively.

There will be no relegation from any of the National Leagues at the conclusion of the 22-23 season subject to Club's completing their full complement of League fixtures apart from Division One North and Division Two North whereby relegation will be implemented depending on the final placement of each club.

Page 8 – Structure for Season 2023-23

Outline of the structure to be in place for 23-24 following Competition Review.

Page 9 – Electronic Team Sheets

Team sheets are to be entered electronically prior to all kick offs.

Page 9 – Second XV Teams in National League (North Wales only)

Separate squads are to be submitted to Rugby Operations department prior to beginning of the season

Page 11 – Amendment to eligibility of players allowed to be registered after Registration Deadline

Changes have been made where players who were deregistered by their respective Club prior to 11:59pm on January 31st 2023 can then register with the Club of their choice after the deadline has passed on February 1st.

However if a player is de-registered on or after February 1st then they will not be eligible to register with a new club for the remainder of the season in order to play in National League fixtures however they can re-register with the Club that deregistered them.

Page 12-14 – Permit Information

Following the League restructure, the permit regulations have changed in relation to where clubs can now seek them.

Page 14 – Dual Registration for Students

Information on a dual registration process for students which allows them to register with a club in England or Scotland for the 22-23 season without having to seek international clearance multiple times.

Page 19 – Sanctions related to unfulfilled Fixtures

Information that all fixtures have to be played during the 22-23 season and the possible sanctions should all games not be played

Page 23 – COVID related unfulfillments

The Competitions Management Committee have outlined the process for fixtures that are unable to be played due to Covid matters and a reminder that all games will have to be played during the season