



## THE WRU NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2024-2025

### 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 format agreed with and a date for all games completed by with the respective Regional Manager or representative. The schedule to these rules sets out the Clubs that comprise each division of the League in the 2024-2025 playing season.
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 18 years old on 31<sup>st</sup> August, that is born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006 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 iii 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 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

A player who transfers after the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 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 during the season with no requirement to transfer.



A Club may play no more than four players on permit in a match. This includes 'Tracked' players.

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 Regulatory & Competitions Manager by the Regional and Academy Manager. If the 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
- 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 through Regional staff.
- b. The Welsh Rugby Union shall carry out the organisation and administration of the League through Regulatory & 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 Regulatory & 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 Regulatory & 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 no later than two days after the match in question, addressed to the WRU Regulatory & Competitions Manager accompanied by a cheque for £100 made payable to the WRU and received by the Regulatory & Competitions Manager of the WRU no more than 2 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 and could face sanction for continued non submissions.**
- iii. Matches in the League should be played to full time except in cases where a team gains a 50-point or more lead. Abandoned matches must be replayed unless the Clubs mutually agree that a result may stand, and that agreement is endorsed by the Regulatory & 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 the date agreed with your respective Regional organiser. Notice of the agreed rearranged date must be sent by both Clubs to the Regulatory & Competitions Manager and Regional staff in writing within 10 days of the original fixture date. If after 14 days Clubs fail to follow this procedure the Regulatory & Competitions Manager will set a date for the new fixture and advise both Clubs accordingly.
- vi. Should any side not fulfil all scheduled fixtures, the respective Regional Teams may be in a position to withdraw and prohibit them from participating in any end of Competition Finals Days. This will not apply to teams who do not fulfil through no fault of their own.

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
Defeat	-	0 points
Bonus Points	-	1 point for a team scoring 4 or more tries 1 point for a team losing by 7 points or less

Therefore, if a team loses a match by 7 or less points but scores 4 or more tries they will receive 2 losing bonus 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 team with the fewest losses will be given preference.



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 – U18 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 1 hour 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 Regulatory & Competitions Manager within two days of the game in question with 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.