

North West Counties Juniors
Minutes of meeting held 1st December 2015 at Leigh Miners Welfare

Roll Call – Bank Quay, Burtonwood, Chester, Clockface, Folly, Haresfinch, , Littleborough, New Springs, Oldham St Annes, Pilks Recs, Rochdale Mayfield, Wigan St Cuthberts, Wigan St Pats, Wrexham, Liverpool Lions.

In line with association rules all to be fined £10.

Presentation – Warrington Foundation

Sean Briscoe and Lee Westwood gave an over-view of Warringtons Foundations work under SKY Try to deliver a range of projects /services aimed at engaging young people in sport. It was emphasised that they are:

- Working within schools within targeted areas offering 5 weeks free coaching aimed at years 3 and 4 within primary schools, with girls touch rugby being offered to high schools along with festivals etc. to engage senior school pupils.
- Hoping to engage with all areas within Warrington but will help other areas if requested.
- Aiming to signpost kids to local clubs and that they will attend initial sessions at community clubs to help familiarise young people
- an accredited learning centre that can facilitate a range of courses (e.g. coaching, first aid, social media)which should prove beneficial to clubs
- Looking to liaise with Council regarding strategy for improved facilities for local community clubs
- By bringing clubs together have been able to negotiate bulk deals on equipment etc. hence clubs being able to get balls for £3
- Working with parents to encourage greater involvement/volunteering
- Collating information/ statistics for u12s to u18s to help prepare for ‘man of steel’ presentation at end of year an event at which local volunteers are acknowledged rewarded
- Looking at supporting referees and encouraging u15s/16s to take course.

In response to questions raised it as noted that the aim is to deliver basic skills based on ability within schools

It was noted that several other professional clubs are offering similar services to help develop the game within the area. Amateur clubs should question Professional Clubs as to how they can assist.

Sean and Lee were thanked by all present.

1. Minutes of previous meeting –(available on website) accepted as a true record.

2. Matters Arising from minutes of November meeting – addressed within the core of the meeting.

3. Primary Rules –

Members were pleased to note that at a recent meeting which now as an independent Chair (Peter Moran) a compromise had been reached and that Ralph Rimmer of the RFL had written outlining the agreement that allows the NW to play 7v7 next season for u7s and 8s in order to gather information etc for review at end of 2016. Video evidence etc. will be collected.

Our Ref: RRDBNF/01

26 November 2015

Mick Doyle
Sent via email



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Dear Mick,

NORTH WEST COUNTIES EXEMPTION

Following the Primary Rugby League Management Group meeting on Tuesday 10 December, I am writing to propose the exemption discussed at the meeting for the North West Counties 8s to 12s league to consider for the Under 7s and Under 8s format during the 2016 season.

You agreed at the meeting that you are in agreement with all of the rules detailed in the proposed 2016 Primary Rugby League Handbook except for:

- a) The maximum numbers of players on each team;
- b) The dimensions of the pitch, in relation to the above point.

For the 2016 season, it is therefore proposed that the North West Counties 8s to 12s League operate to the following rules at Under 7s and Under 8s:

- 1) All rules are as per the 2016 Primary Rugby League Handbook which will be confirmed at our forthcoming meeting on 8th December;
- 2) The League will be given an exemption to field teams up to a maximum of 7 a-side at both age groups;
- 3) The dimensions of the pitch may be increased from those stipulated in the Handbook by 3m additional width per additional player (3m at 6-a-side and 6m at 7-a-side) to give adequate space;
- 4) Where clubs have numbers that are not in multiples of 7, smaller sided games will take place. For example, if two teams have 12 players each, then 2x pitches will run with games played at 6v6;
- 5) All Coaches attend a pre-season Coaches Workshop to support their match day delivery during the year.

The exemption is granted on the agreement of the League that:

- 1) The League fully adopts the "all players play all of the time" approach, with multiple pitches and games taking place on a match day to increase game time for all players;
- 2) The League works in partnership with the RFL and Professional Club Foundations to ensure that all coaches for teams at Under 7s and Under 8s attend the education workshops prior to the start of the season to assist in embedding;
- 3) Further review is undertaken at the end of the 2016 season.



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All were reminded of the need to ensure that:

- all kids are engaged in games working to all the kids play all the time were possible .
- need for some to change mind-set from 'playing to win' to 'playing to develop (MD and GA have both agreed to help with this) and all were asked to report any coaches who are playing to win so that help can be given to bring about change
- there is a need for all to show what is good about the game within the NW
- all should feel free to say that they prefer 4v4 if that is the case – need to be honest

- All clubs to attend Education Workshops to be arranged by John McMullen (no excuses)

John McMullen has been asked to arrange a meeting with Pro-clubs to develop joint working with NWCounties.

Graham pointed out that under present rules no child can participate in contact games prior to their 6th birthday .

It has been proposed that this be lowered to 5 year old once they reach primary school, we oppose this and the clubs agreed that it should remain at a 6 years continuing the development of core skills at cubs within the NW.

Also clubs oppose the proposal of an unlimited scoring in a set of six as this is alien to the game of RL.

4. Match official charges –

At the recent Y& J forum the issue was raised on the setting of match fees for officials the NW will remain at 2015 rates.

5. Club Accreditation

5.1 Only 5 clubs appear to be accredited. All were asked to look at what is required and contact Mark Lovering for assistance. Phone 07515753884 email mark.lovering@rfl.uk.com

5.2 Funding – contact Mark (above) regarding possible funding available and help with bid writing.

6. RFL Community Board –

It was noted that Charles Bray is to step down. Kevin Davison from Lancashire is a nominee and it is hoped that he will receive sufficient votes to be appointed .

We support Kevin in his nomination .

7. – AGM

At last meeting it was agreed that the AGM will be held on 5th January – proposals for consideration: John Davenport has put himself forward to lead the Disciplinary Panel once Karen steps down. All sitting committee are prepared to carry on .

No proposals have been received .

Anyone wishing to assist welcomed.

8. 2016 season Application/Registrations

All were advised that applications etc must be submitted by email to Mick no later than the 5th January(date of AGM) and that fees must be paid at the meeting. Teams not registered/paid will not be included in fixtures. Forms are in process of being updated and will be available on website this weekend.

The player registration forms must be completed prior to the February meeting. Please deal with a.s.a.p. in order to assist the registration clerks.

9. Self evaluation for u12s

Members were advised of the self-evaluation piloted by u13s and the positive impact this has had in game completion rates. It was noted that this is to be trailed with the U12s and that this should assist in helping grade teams and thus help with fixtures.

All were asked to be realistic when looking at fixtures. Responding to questions raised it was suggested that coaches liaise about fixtures and where appropriate try and rearrange fixtures to help accommodate pitch availability etc. Nothing wrong in holding games evenings/Saturdays or perhaps as curtain raisers prior to senior games.

10. Possible new clubs for 2016

It was noted that South Trafford Raiders and Belle Vue Bees are hoping to join as affiliated members. Whilst still developing it is hoped that they will participate in a few games and festivals but not in regular fixtures. Flintshire Falcons might also wish to join.

11 . Winner of monthly draw Leigh Miners Rangers.

12 A.O.B.

Suggestion to hold raffle at next meeting to raise funds for Rugby League Cares was met with approval.