

## **North West Counties Juniors**

Minutes of meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at Leigh Miners Welfare

**Roll Call** – Absent: Halton Farnworth, Latchford, Leigh East, Littleborough, Newton Storm, North Trafford, Saddleworth, Shevington, Wrexham

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

Apologies – Graham

**1 Minutes of previous meeting** which had been made available on website accepted as a true record.

### **2 Matters arising**

Members were reminded that the fine for non-attendance at the AGM was £30. Details of the clubs who did not attend were shown on the minutes of the AGM made available on the website.

### **3 Registrations 2015**

All were reminded that registration applications should have been submitted via email prior to the meeting. It was pointed out that a large number of clubs had not submitted the necessary application forms and that this impacted on the setting of fixtures as information as to the teams participating had not been provided. All were asked to submit applications by Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2015 in order for the Chair to arrange fixtures (for u8's, 9s and 10s fixtures will again be based on the groupings considered appropriate).

It was pointed out that on several of the applications received information about coaching qualifications had been omitted. Where coaches do not hold qualifications please enter details of course the individual is booked on. Whilst level 1 coaching certificate is acceptable this year all were reminded that from 2016 at least one coach for each age group at each club must have level 2 qualification.

In response to questions raised about the costs involved for coaches qualifications John from the RFL agreed he would provide details of possible funding so that information can be displayed on the association website.

### **4 Primary Rules**

As agreed at the meeting in December (item 9) the information regarding the proposed changes and the options put forward had been made available on the website in order that club representatives could report back as requested on behalf of their clubs. It was accepted that there are 2 options and that the Chair and Secretary are required to take forward the views of clubs to the meeting with the RFL on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015. A lengthy debate, much of which was reiterating concerns etc expressed at previous meetings took place.

It was noted that:

- Option 1 (below) is preferred option of the RFL
- the concerns expressed previously (e.g. impact on clubs with limited playing space, limited number of coaches) had been considered and that option 2 (below) had been put forward as a compromise by NW Counties based on the feedback of coaches, children/families who had participated in the pilot scheme and club representatives at meetings.

- To maintain/increase participation clubs can arrange to play games at any time (i.e. midweek) if it would assist with playing space etc. and by being flexible (i.e sharing players) can ensure all are fully engaged in playing.
- A request for an arbitration panel (similar to those operated by other sports) to be adopted had also been put forward but no response from the RFL Board to date.

Some members expressed concerns about what they perceived as the RFL forcing things on them and the possible impact on volunteers and the future of the game. Questions were raised about possible impact on the association and the game if Option 1 (blow) was rejected by this association but the general consensus was that this was something that would have to be considered at a future date based on the outcomes of the meeting next week and any issues that arose from it.

John from the RFL acknowledged that the Chair (Mick) and Secretary (Graham) had shared been open and transparent when sharing information and reflected the views of members when in discussions with the RFL. He reminded members that the RFL aim is to increase participation in the sport and that the RFL believe that the 5 x 5 game proposals will facilitate this. Other areas will adopt the 5 x 5 game. To the best of his knowledge no sanctions have been threatened against associations that do not comply with the 5 x 5 with tackling rules.

The work of the foundations linked to professional clubs was acknowledged as was the work of volunteers within the amateur clubs which has led to a dramatic increase in participation within the community game in the North West, a trend not shown in other areas.

Members were asked to advise which of the following options their clubs wished the Chair and Secretary to accept at the meeting of the RFL next week (12<sup>th</sup> January 2015)

*Option 1* 5x5 with tackling

or

*Option 2* 7 x 7 with tackling (up to a maximum of 7 children per side with coaches liaising to agree most appropriate number for children participating in the game)

A vote with no declared abstentions was taken. It was:-

**Resolved that** *Option 1 be rejected and that the Chair and Secretary take forward/implement option 2 within the North West area.*

#### **5 Embed the Pathway CDP course.**

Level 2 coaches can attend a free course on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 9am to 5pm at Stretford. Phone 0113 201 5464 to book a place on the course

#### **6 AOB**

Clubs were reminded that logos need to be 300x300 jpeg so that they can go on association website.

Having learned of Micks father's death members expressed sympathy to Mick and his family.

#### **7 Winner of monthly draw** Oldham St Annes

**Next meeting: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015 at 8.30pm**