

North West Counties Juniors
Minutes of meeting held 7th July 2015 at Leigh Miners Welfare

Roll Call – Bank Quay, Chester, Littleborough and Saddleworth

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

Higginshaw Eagles

On Sunday, Jim Marshall (coach) fell ill whilst refereeing and was later rushed into hospital. He remains in a poorly condition. Our thoughts, prayers and best wishes go out to Jim and his family. Higginshaw's apologies for non-attendance tonight will be accepted without penalty under the circumstances.

Raging Bull. Steve the local representative introduced himself and reminded everyone that as sponsors of the league, Raging Bull have some good offers and discounts for merchandise.

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

2 Matters Arising from minutes of May meeting – Primary Rules

2 a) Primary Rules Members were advised of a letter received earlier today by the Chair from David Butler referring to a meeting of the Community Board held on the 10th June some 27 days after the event . Pointing out that the primary rugby league rules as outlined by the RFL is to be considered best practice and that failure to adopt and comply with these rules means that there is a breach of rules by the NW. As such it is unclear whether u7s are insured to participate in games that are not in accordance with RFL rules (i.e. max 5v5 playing)



Rugby Football League
Red Hall
Red Hall Lane
Leeds
LS17 8NB

Mr M Doyle
Chairman
North West Counties 8s to 12s Rugby League

6th July 2015

Dear Mick,

I am writing on behalf of the RFL Community Board following its recent meeting on Wednesday 10th June, at which the non-acceptance of the new Primary Rugby League formats by the North West Counties 8s to 12s league was discussed. Following discussion, it was unanimously agreed that I would write to you to notify you that;

- 1) The Primary Rugby League Management Group's focus will now turn to ensuring that the new formats of Primary Rugby League are properly embedded and to become a best practice forum to make this happen. As long as your league is not willing to accept the new formats, the agenda is unlikely to be relevant to your league and as such your attendance will no longer be relevant.
- 2) As the Community Game Operational Rules dictate that the Primary Rugby League should be played in accordance with the Primary Rugby League rules (*the new format was voted in by the Primary Rugby League management group in January of this year and detailed in this year's rule book*) your league is in breach of the Operational Rules and as a result participating teams may be playing without insurance cover.
- 3) The RFL will only be producing supporting material for the new formats of Primary Rugby League (eg. Primary Rugby League Handbook, Coach & Parent Workshops, Videos, etc)
- 4) The RFL will focus Primary Rugby League time and resources towards the Leagues and Clubs which are running the new format.
- 5) The RFL shall begin to explore alternative methods of delivering Primary Rugby League in line with the new format for clubs in the North West region.
- 6) Further sanctions may follow against the league should it remain non-compliant to the new Primary Rugby League formats.

The Chair responded via email to David Butler requesting clarification in light of previous communications and seeking clarification of the insurance issues raised and what was meant when 'alternative delivery' mentioned by the RFL.

David Butler had referred the email to Kelly Barrett who responded after initial enquiries made with compliance and legal teams. Kelly explained that where playing outside the rules (i.e. max players 5 v 5) problems could arise as insurance unlikely to cover any claims and thus it would impact on clubs

and volunteers. With regard to the Alternative Delivery mentioned by David, Kelly explained that no work has been undertaken. Concerns were again raised by the Chair in response to Kelly's email but no further response received and thus no further clarification of the situation.

The Chair explained that as a league it is important to ensure that all are insured to safeguard volunteers and clubs as well as players. Thus all were instructed not to play the 7v7 game format this weekend and ensure that all u7s games comply with RFL ruling and thus the insurance guidelines.

Discussion took place with concerns being expressed:

- as to whether the Community Board are fully aware of the reasons why NWCounties opted to play max 7v7
- why the issues raised by NWCounties and the presentation made on the 31st March has not been shared with others and included on agendas for meetings of the leagues
- Regarding possible expulsion from the league and the lack of information being shared by the RFL with other leagues regarding this.
- that the growth of the game within the NW is being ignored
- that not all clubs seem to have knowledge of the letter despite the chair being led to believe it had been circulated to all clubs
- as to whether clubs have been insured over the last few months
- regarding words 'in breach' of rules not having been mentioned before today
- As to whether the letter from David Gent of the RFL earlier this year regarding the NW format (7v7) had been misleading whether this could have resulted in clubs not being insured.

Members proposed that:

- A) That a committee/working group be formed to liaise directly with the RFL Community Board regarding primary rules
- B) In light of the lack of clarity regarding insurance for u7s all u7s games due to be played over the forthcoming weekend to be cancelled.
- C) If insurance issues clarified by Thursday (9th July) details will be shared with clubs via the NWCounties website

A vote was taken and all three proposals were agreed unanimously.

In response to questions raised it was pointed out that that the RFL primary rules is a 3 year programme and that this year's u7s:

In 2016 as u8s will play max 6 v 6

In 2017 as u9s will play max 7 v 7

In 2018 as u10s will play 11 v 11 (YET TO BE CONFIRMED)

Several members expressed concerns about festivals planned over the summer break period and the impact the uncertainties regarding insurance might have on these festivals.

Several members said that their individual clubs might contact wish to David Butler, Head of Community Department Delivery, direct regarding the insurance issues raised.

3. Correspondence

Permission sought to hold festivals:

Halton Farnworth wish to hold a festival for u8s to u11s on 30th August (contact ianyates@google.com)

Latchford wish to hold festival on 25th July for u19s (details on website)

Wigan Bulldogs have arranged for several teams to participate in a small festival on the 8th August and seek permission.

Permission granted for the above.

4 Finals Day

Congratulations to all who took part for the good games which were enjoyed by all present. Details of the winners have been provided on the website. DVDs priced £7.50 are available.

5 Danny Jones Collection

This will close at the end of tonight's meeting in order that all monies raised can be passed to the family.

6 Referees

All were reminded that it was agreed several years ago for the U12s to have developing referees allocated. These are often young people learning to be referees and as such should be encouraged. Showing disrespect and being abusive to referees is not permitted and where the referee is under 18 years of age it could be considered child abuse. Should the referee make mistakes that it is felt warrant intervention then please contact Mick or Darren in order that they can arrange suitable guidance/support to help develop the referee's skills. All members were asked to ensure that abuse of referees is not tolerated.

7 After match hospitality

Members were reminded that all clubs do their best to provide food on match days and that it is disrespectful not to partake of the hospitality offered. Teams should give advance notice if they are unable to stay for refreshments thus not incurring costs for hosts and wasting food. Fines might be incurred if teams persist in not advising hosts of their intentions not to stay for refreshments.

8 Team sheet fines

Details of fines were provided to members. Emails are being issued to remind clubs of the amounts to be paid.

9 Fixtures

Under 11s and 12s to be assessed and fixtures arranged for September. All agreed that the u11s should commence playing 13 v 13 from September to end of the season each year (in line with school year and those going to high school playing 13 a side within school) in accordance with mod transition.

10 Lancashire Cup

To be played 6th September (with next round played on the 20th September).

Leigh MR	v	St Cuthberts
Blackbrook	v	Ryland Sharks
Woolston	v	Oldham St Annes
Mayfield	v	Halton Farnworth H
Ince Rose Bridge	v	Wigan St Pats
Saddleworth	v	Newton Storm
Crossfields	v	Latchford

11 North Wales Crusaders

A developing team looking for games for u12s. Please contact if you can help.

12 A.O.B.

Pair of glasses found at Finals Day – contact Karen Golborne pointed out that water bottles went missing at Finals Day. Please advise if found.

13 Winner of monthly draw Waterhead

Although Bank Quay was drawn first no representative present so further draw made in line with rules and Waterhead won.