

**NORTH WEST COUNTIES JUNIORS**  
**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016**  
**Meeting held at Leigh Miners Welfare**

Roll Call Absent -Haresfinch, Rochdale Mayfield, S Trafford, West Bank, Rochdale Cobras

Fines in line with association rules will be applied.

1. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as a true record
2. Matters arising – to be dealt with within framework of meeting

**3. Fixtures**

**3.1** Festivals - Referring the work of Pro-clubs and the organisation of Festivals by them, members were reminded that:

- Attendance at festivals must not be to detriment of fixtures arranged by NWC
- Clubs are responsible for honouring fixtures (re-arrange if appropriate with agreement of opposition)
- Chair (Mick) should be advised by clubs of festivals they intend to attend – thus giving opportunity for games to be arranged between any clubs whose games might be cancelled

**3.2** members were advised that several clubs have more than one team in an age group and asked to note that

- Halton Farnworth H U7s now have 2 teams (red and green) – greens to take up free date
- Wigan St Pats u8s have 2 teams (black and green titans) the greens to take up free date

**3.3** Whilst every effort will be made to review and consider requests to change grouping members must accept that this is not always possible.

**All were reminded of the need to check the website on a weekly basis as any amendments to fixtures will be posted.**

**3.4 Team sheets** It was pointed out that:

- team sheets must be completed prior to kick off
- details of teams and the date must be shown
- Scores should be entered on team-sheets
- officials should complete as appropriate

Fines will be imposed if information not provided or if it is found that players' names etc. not completed prior to kick off.

**4 Primary rules**

In light of the number of enquiries received requesting clarification all were reminded that the rules to which all must adhere are on the website.

**The importance of abiding by the rules, especially in light of the fact that the NW are reviewing outcomes based on clubs adhering to agreed rules as displayed on website was emphasised. Any deviations from the agreed rules will undermine the work done and being done.**

Responding to questions regarding rules regarding 11-year-old girls being able to play, it was pointed out that despite requests for written clarification only verbal guidance stating girls can fulfil fixtures up the end of the season in which they commence secondary school has been received. The Chair is to seek clarification and report back at next meeting.

Graham pointed out that he hopes to obtain additional mod rules booklets.

- 5 Referees** Problems have been encountered with securing referees for u12s games with some clubs approaching referees direct to work with younger age groups. All were reminded that:

- U12s games take priority
- No club to contact referees direct to arrange supervision of u12s games – referee appointments will be provided as per usual
- Any club wanting a referee to supervise u11 and younger games must go through local referees' society and request a developing referee (praise given for young referees in Wigan)
- Need to respect and encourage referees. –

In the event of any confusion about rules applied by a referee coaches should liaise in a reasonable manner with the referee. The need to discuss rules to ensure referees clear about mod rules prior to game was highlighted and it was suggested that sending link to website to give referees time to familiarise themselves with rules a few days before game would prove beneficial.

## 6 Reporting of scores and discipline

The issue of teams demoralising/ humiliating opposition was discussed with members being reminded of the need to focus on developing skills and not on winning. Posting comments on social media and/or in local press about high scores undermine the whole ethos of the game. Using larger children to barge through and repeatedly score against smaller children is not beneficial for any of the young people, and coaches were reminded of the need to encourage ball distribution and the development of all players.

Yorkshire are imposing fines where scores are quoted on social media etc. and whilst reluctant to adopt this the NW Counties will consider the introduction of such measures if clubs are not self-policing the issue.

Complaints about abuse of referees have already been received. Coaches, team managers etc. are responsible for ensuring that parents/supporters behave in an appropriate manner. Fines will be heavier for clubs who have made no effort to improve behaviour on the side-lines.

## 7 Lancashire Cup Draw u12s

First round games to be played 17<sup>th</sup> April.

Ashton Bears	v	Crosfields
Blackbrook Blacks	v	Clockface
Rylands	v	Chorley
Oldham St Annes	v	Leigh Miners Gold
Newton Storm	v	Westbank
Woolston	v	Hindley
Haresfinch	v	Waterhead
Leyland	v	Halton FH
Ince Rose Bridge	v	Wigan St Pats
Saddleworth	v	Langworthy Reds
Wigan St Judes	v	Haydock
Blackbrook Blues	v	Golborne
Culcheth	v	Latchford
Thatto Heath	v	Wigan St Cuthberts
Orrell St James	v	Ashton Golds
Rochdale Mayfield	v	Leigh Miners Rangers

**8 Registrations-** In light of recent confusion/enquiries David Lowe is to scan and provide registration officers with copies of cards. This will help registration officers when responding to enquiries.

**9 Fundraising to assist Serbia trip.** Raffle held. Mick reported that due to clash with other commitments he will not be going to Serbia but that fundraising to assist will be undertaken as agreed at last meeting.

**10 Monthly draw**—Chester Gladiators drawn but in their absence and in accordance with rules redraw made. Wigan Bulldogs won.

**11 A.O.B** Change of contact details for Westhoughton Lions U10s – J Sandforth tel:07402858228