

NORTH WEST COUNTIES JUNIORS
MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD 2nd August 2016
Meeting held at Leigh Miners Welfare

Roll Call Absent -Aspull, Bank Quay, Blackbrook, Chester, Chorley, Crosfields, Haresfinch, Heysham, Ince Rose Bridge, Orrell St James, Rochdale Cobras, Saddleworth, Salford, South Trafford, Widnes St Maries, Widnes Moorfield, Westhoughton,

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.
Item 5.3 July 2016, no-one has submitted written proposals regarding about flexibility of team choices and/or grouping.
3. **Transfers**
Responding to questions raised members were advised that:
 - Registration form and transfer form required
 - 3 transfers from 3 different clubs allowed per season
 - Appeals to be submitted in writing to Graham
 - Where change of address is given for transfer, then proof of new address required
 - Flexible approach used as do not wish to stop children playing
 - Where transfer from another league same principles apply

4 Rhinos Challenge

Members were advised that Kelly Barrett of the RFL has liaised with Leeds regarding the Rhinos Challenge and agreement has been reached whereby future events will comply with the operational rules and ethos and be non-competitive with games being held in accordance with the rules (i.e. u7s will not play 9 per side).

In addition, Leeds has spoken to Mick and it is anticipated that any issues will be taken to the Primary Rugby League Group.

Approval to attend will be given as now non-competitive but any clubs wishing to attend will be required to advise the chair in order to keep the association in the loop.

It was noted that a lot of confusion had been caused by people entering incorrect information on forums after last month's meeting. For example, saying that fines would be imposed when no such thing had been said. All were asked to be respectful to the association and work within decisions agreed by members.

5 Safe Play

In light of comments made members were advised to refer to the safe play code within the handbook (which is available on the RFL website) and reminded that coaching aggressive tackling is not good practice and could lead to serious injury. Shirt grabbing can be dangerous and should not be encouraged and every effort should be made to ensure there are no tackles/grabbing above armpits.

Where young children not complying with code they should be told why they must take care to work within the rules/code (i.e. don't want to injure opponent)

6 Primary rules

Referring to the update given last month it was pointed out that a further meeting is to be held in September and that all leagues have been asked to contact all clubs and request feedback (positive and negative) on the season to date in order that each league can report back to the meeting giving views of those they represent. All were asked to give feedback by the 16th August so that the information gathered can be discussed at September meeting before being presented to RFL.

7 Mod Transition

From September u11s can play 13 per side subject to numbers available to play. Rules for mod transition on RFL website.

8 Newbies, U7s

Newbies is designed for children who haven't played before. Any clubs wishing to have games for newbies should submit information direct to Mick by 16th August in order that he may arrange fixtures.

It was asked if clubs with a high number of year 1 children currently playing with the U7 could be split into age appropriate groups after the summer break, the chair said this could be accommodated providing clubs let him know so that fixtures can be arranged.

Several clubs have asked to add extra U7 teams into the fixtures for the second half of the season.

9 Development of Game

Discussing the long term development of the game it was noted that:

- the retention of players will be considered
- those who have dropped out will be contacted in order to establish reasons for leaving
- problems with older age groups exist which need addressing in order to grow game
- consideration being given to initiatives such as smaller grouping play-offs to increase interest for u14s

Member pointed out that some problems arise from coaches making comments that lead young people to believe they will be signed as professionals and that this can lead to disillusioned youngsters who leave the game completely when they feel they have been misled.

10 National Champions

Congratulations were extended to Haltom Farnworth Hornets U14 who defeated a highly rated Kippax Warriors in the BARLA national cup final.

11 Monthly draw winner –

Rochdale Cobras not present so re-drawn in line with association rules

Hares Finch not present so re-drawn in line with association rules

Blackbrook not present so re-drawn in line with association rules

Cadishead – present so won equipment

It was noted that the supplier has not provided all the necessary equipment. This issue will be rectified as soon as possible.

12 A.O.B. None