

NORTH WEST COUNTIES JUNIORS
Minutes OF Monthly Meeting 5th July 2016
Meeting held at Leigh Miners Welfare

Roll Call Absent –Aspull New Springs, Bank Quay, Belle Vue Bees, Chester, Haresfinch, Heysham, Rochdale Mayfield, Rochdale Cobra, Saddleworth, and West Bank,

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.
Festivals – apologies for not updating website. Members were asked to send details of any approved festivals via email to the chair.

3. Transfers

All were reminded that;

- Registered players can only take part in training etc. with the club they are registered with.
- Players wishing to transfer to another club cannot participate in training with any club other than the club they are registered with until such time as the transfer is approved and a new registration card received by the ‘new’ club.
- Allowing players from another club to train with your team could invalidate insurance and thus impact adversely on coaches etc. should there be an accident and thus is not permitted by the association
- Where a transfer is requested the club the player wishes to leave must sign the form and outline any reasons/problems that might impact on the transfer
- At no time must parents contact the Chair or Secretary regarding transfer issues.
- Ignorance of the rules is not an excuse, – if in doubt seek advice from Graham

4 Rhinos Challenge

Following complaints made regarding the format of the Rhinos Challenge operating outside the rules/ethos of the game it is understood that a meeting is to be held between the RFL and Leeds Rhinos next week (13th July)., The 2017 event is already being advertised with the competitive element of the event being highlighted. Should the RFL endorse this then they will be in breach of the NGBs own operational rules.

All agreed that whilst NW Counties has worked hard for many years to promote a non-competitive element in line with the ethos of the mini and mod and now PRL, the NGB would be applying double standards and hypocrisy if they allowed the Professional clubs in include competitive elements in their delivery of PRL and Sky Try.

It is the position of the association not to sanction the attendance at any event that promotes competitive rugby at PRL age groups 7-11s.

Any club who attends without approval could be subject to disciplinary action

5 Primary rules -

5.1

Mick was pleased to point out that a positive meeting had been held with John Roberts, (RFL Performance Director) who has agreed to work with the North West and the adoption of a flexible approach to encourage the development of the game within the area in the format suggested by the NW.

This is an opportunity for the NW to be a beacon for the country and all were asked to assist by:

- Ensuring all kids included in games
- Fulfilling all fixtures
- Promoting the game
- Helping create and maintain a good environment with parents, etc., providing encouragement to all players and showing respect to others
- Increasing and retaining players

5.2

Thanks were expressed to all who had contributed in bringing about these positive changes from the RFL.

5.3

General discussion took place regarding several issues including:

- groupings of teams –
- the problems that arise from scores not being entered on team sheets
- where clubs have more than one team within an age group coaches having flexibility when choosing players for games (i.e. not constrained by present system whereby players cannot be moved between teams within a club on an ad hoc basis)
- the need for coaches to remember that their primary role is to develop and not win
- the need to ensure equal game time for all children
- the sharing of players is encouraged as this helps provide game time for all (where sharing refused this should be reported to Graham)

Anyone wishing to submit written proposals about flexibility of team choices and/or groupings should submit them via the Chair/Secretary for future consideration

5.4

It was pointed out that administrative changes to help monitor some issues (i.e. playing time for individual children) is being considered as a way of helping to police the game.

7 Finals Day

Thanks were expressed to all involved in this year's Finals Day. The behaviour of all was exemplary and the positive feedback from the venue was pleasing. The young officials did very well. The positive atmosphere and the sportsmanship on display provided encouragement and showed all in a very good light. Congratulations were given to the winners.

Development Plate Winners; Wigan St Patricks. **Runners Up;** Golborne Parkside

Development Cup Winners; Rochdale Mayfield. **Runners Up;** Blackbrook Royals

Plate Winners; Leigh Miners Rangers **Runners Up;** Blackbrook Blues

Grand Final Winners; Wigan St Jude's **Runners Up;** Halton Farnworth Hornets

8 Qualifications

All were reminded of the need to ensure that:

Coaches have appropriate qualifications (level 2 for head coach and level 1 for assistant coach)

One Level 2 coach required at a game

DBS carried out on anyone involved

Those booked on coaching course can officiate at games

They are vigilant at all times to ensure child safety

The RFL Safeguarding team do deal with any issues promptly (i.e. notifications from police etc. that impact on DBS)

Consideration is being given to the inclusion of First aid on Coaching courses.

9 Serbia Tour

The English Lion hearts u18s won the Belgrade cup and the young people enjoyed the opportunity to play abroad.

10 Monthly draw winner – Bury Broncos

11 A.O.B. None