 

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RFU

JUNIOR COMPETITIONS

SEASON 2022-23

**Lancashire Challenge and Waterfall Rules.**

The aim of these Lancashire county junior competitions is to provide a competitive playing field for all club age grade members. All the games will be played following the RFU age grade playing regulations (reg 15), player safety (reg 9) and safeguarding (reg 21). All the regulations can be found on the England web site under governance, and then regulations come up in the drop down box.

**Any club entering the Lancashire Junior challenge must adhere to the fixtures set out by the organiser.  
If they enter any other competitions and there is a fixture clash the Lancashire Challenge/Festival takes priority.**

**If the Lancashire Fixture is not played because a team plays in another competition then the offending team will be removed from the Lancashire competition**

**The Competitions**

* The Lancashire Challenge/Waterfall is administered by the Junior Competitions Committee which is part of the Lancashire Mini & Junior Committee who are a subcommittee for Lancashire County Rugby and are answerable to the Lancashire County Board.
* Every endeavour will be made by the organisers to ensure that the announcement of fixtures, results and other relevant information will be published in a timely manner by email, web sites and social media. All club publications in relation to fixtures, results and reports within the Lancashire Challenge/Festival must be kept within the spirit of the game and safeguarding protocols have been followed re photographs, names etc.
* The under 14’s, under 15’s and under 16’s will play for the following trophies The Cup, The Plate, The Vase and The Bowl.
* Winning teams will be responsible for the return of the trophy in a timely manner ready for the next set of finals. Clubs must also engrave and clean the trophies before they are returned.

**Competition Eligibility**

* All entrants must be members of Lancashire County RFU.
* All players must be of the correct age for their age grade at 24.00 on 31st August for the start of season.
* Every player must be a signed up member of their club and affiliated to the RFU by way of GMS
* All players must be assigned to their correct team.
* A player that moves to another club within the season will be cup tied. If a player plays one match regardless of the round they are deemed cup tied.
* Clubs struggling with team numbers and wish to play players out of age grade to field a team, must ensure that the appropriate dispensation has been granted by the County Safeguarding Manager. All requests for out of age approval must be submitted before the weekend of the fixture. ( These last for 1 season only)
* Copies of all certificates granted must be carried with coaches ready for checking prior to kick off.

**Conduct of Matches**

* Dates for the fixtures have been published within the RFU Age Grade Playing Calendar and the dates stated are the one to be adhered to. If a club feels they have a valid reason to request a change of date, an email must be sent to the competitions organiser and secretary in advance to be looked at.
* If the Organisers determine that any side deliberately fails to play, or fails to continue t play, a fixtures for whatever reason ALL POINTS WILL BE FOREFITED
* In the event of adverse weather conditions on the day of the fixture, the referee’s decision as to starting the game and or its continuation will be final.
* All matches will cease being competitive Challenge/Waterfall games once a point’s difference reaches 40 point margin. It is hoped that coaches/managers will carry on with the fixture as a training/development game. This includes mixing up teams and positions, but recognising that the front row rules must still be observed.

**Player Identification**

* All team players must be affiliated on GMS.
* Players must upload a photograph on GMS so as to be able to create a photo ID card.
* Clubs can then download or print off the team list ready for checking. (This is how we can check that all players are in the correct age grade.)
* Players playing out of age must have applied to Lancashire County Rugby for approval and have received a currant certificate or proof of approval.

**Match Reporting**

* Match/team sheets MUST be filled in for every Challenge/Waterfall fixture making sure all match day fields are entered correctly. This MUST be filled in even if your fixture is cancelled. Write cancelled across the sheet and the reason. Make sure the match details are entered into the correct fields.
* The match/team sheets MUST be completed before the fixture is kicked off.
* You MUST list the following, all match day details, squad of players and their RFU ID number and if Front Row player (FR) Along with red or yellow cards.
* You MUST also get the match official to sign the form. Important if there are any unforeseen issues arise.
* Team managers or coaches from both sides must sign each other’s sheets.
* **Results should be texted in to the relevant age grade secretaries by 7pm on the day of the fixture**
* **Match/team sheets must be sent in PDF FORMAT ONLY to your age grade secretaries by the latest 7pm on Monday evening after the fixture**

**Playing Strip**

* We would hope that teams would communicate beforehand if there is a possibility of a clash of colours and come to some arrangement prior to the fixture. It is usual for the home team to change where ever possible.

**Referees and Discipline**

* The responsibility for arranging a referee is down to the home team. If this is not possible the opportunity to referee the fixture should be give to the opposition.
* All red and yellow cards must be reported and marked on the match/team sheet. All red cards must be reported to the County Discipline Secretary. He will then advise on how the club should proceed in accordance with youth discipline using guidance within regulation 19.
* Youth rugby will be expected to find their own referee’s and touch judges, and they should be treated accordingly. Without them there is no fixture!

**Playing Regulations**

* All fixtures will be played in accordance with the Laws of the game and following regulation 15.
* All players named within the squad listed on the Match/Team sheet must play at least half a game in accordance with regulations of the game except on occasions when a player is taken ill just before game or in the warm up. The decision on how time is split up is at the coaches/manages digression.
* On the grounds of safety, player development and fairness, if a team is unable to field a full team of 15 players the opposition will be restricted to that number (minimum of 10)

Please promote fair play, development and enjoyment of the game by the lending of players to make a meaning full game.

* If coaches are in agreement and players are leant to make a full side, the competition organiser must be told by email.
* Rolling substitutes are allowed throughout the match so long as the referee has been informed and they take place during a stoppage in play.
* There must also be front row replacements on the bench, if not you must inform the referee. (under 14’s-16’s)
* Match times and bal sizes are as follows

Under 12’s Ball size 4 (1 match 20mns each way) (2 matches 10mins each way)

Under 13’s Ball size 4 25mins each way

Under 14’s Ball size 4 25mins each way

Under 15’s Ball size 5 30mins each way

Under 16’s Ball size 5 35mins each way

**Please remember that 40 points is the maximum difference to be recorded per fixture.**

**Points**

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| --- | --- |
| Win | 5 |
| Draw | 2 |
| Loss | 1(with bonus point for a margin of 10 or less |
| Match not played | 2 each |
| Failure to play | 0 |
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| Festivals | Count the number of tries scored not the points scored |
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**The results will be posted on the new competition web site not the facebook page. There will be an update on facebook to say the results have been updated.**

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| **Under 12's** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pool Games played as per published fixture list. Results recorded and new pools created for end of season  festival day based on recorded results from the initial pool games. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| **Under 13's** |  | | |  | |  | | |  | |
| Each team plays each other team in their pool once | | | | | | | | |  | |
| On final Sunday identified as festival day (round 9) Pool A - First plays second, third plays fourth, fifth plays sixth, seventh plays eighth | | | | | | | | | | |
| On round 8 for Pool B, C & D - Sixth Plays Seventh | | | |  | |  | | |  | |
| On final Sunday identified as festival day (round 9) Pool B, C & D - First plays second, third plays fourth, fifth plays sixth | | | | | | | | |  | |
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| **Under 14's, 15's & 16's** | | | |  | |  | | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 Pool games played as per published fixture list. Results recorded | | | |  | |  | | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 Upon completion of pool games, Knock out stages commence - | | | |  | |  | | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 Teams finishing 1st or 2nd in qualifying pool enter cup competition. Teams finishing top of pool groups get  home advantage in quarter finals for Cup competition. Open draw for semi finals | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 Teams finishing 3rd or 4th in qualifying pool enter vase competition. Teams finishing third in pool groups  get home advantage in quarter finals for vase competition. Open draw for semi finals | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 Losing cup quarter final teams enter plate competition for open draw semi final | | | | | |  | | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Structure** | **Cup** |  | **Plate** |  | **Vase** |  | **Bowl** | | **QF Round** | CUP QF 1 - 1st or 2nd place in qualifying pool |  |  |  | Vase QF 1 |  |  | |  | CUP QF 2 - 1st or 2nd place in qualifying pool |  |  |  | Vase QF 2 |  |  | |  | CUP QF 3 - 1st or 2nd place in qualifying pool |  |  |  | Vase QF 3 |  |  | |  | CUP QF 4 - 1st or 2nd place in qualifying pool |  |  |  | Vase QF 4 |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | **SF Round** | Winner Cup QF 1 |  | Loser Cup QF 1 |  | Winner Vase QF 1 |  | Loser Vase QF 1 | |  | Winner cup QF 2 |  | Loser Cup QF 2 |  | Winner Vase QF 2 |  | Loser Vase QF 2 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | Winner Cup QF 3 |  | Loser Cup QF 3 |  | Winner Vase QF 3 |  | Loser Vase QF 3 | |  | Winner Cup QF 4 |  | Loser Cup QF 4 |  | Winner Vase QF 4 |  | Loser Vase QF 4 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | **Final Round** | Two cup S/F Winners |  | Two SF winners |  | Two SF Winners |  | Two SF winners | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | | | | | |  | | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Development Competition** | |  |  | |  | |  |  | |
| Development competition pool A - Six highest ranking teams not qualifying for Vase to play in a development competition –  Final structure to be confirmed | | | | | | |  |  | |
| Development competition pool B - Remaining teams not qualifying for Vase to play in a development competition –  Final structure to be confirmed | | | | |  | |  |  | |

**General Conduct**

* The county and the organisers take the gravest view of inappropriate conduct by players or spectators. It is the clubs responsibility to control the behaviour of its players, coaches, manager, administrators and spectators and all clubs must be aware of, and uphold, the RFU’s codes of conducts.
* In the event of a report being received of a failure to observe acceptable conduct the Organiser shall take on behalf of the county take any such action against the offending teams it considers appropriate including, but not limited to, the replaying of the match, awarding the match to the other side, or excluding the team from the remainder of the competition.
* Note. The county has the power to suspend or disband Mini and Junior rugby sections.

**Interpretation of the Rules**

* Any appeal or dispute must be sent by the clubs mini and junior chairperson by email within 48hours of the conclusion of the fixture [mini-junior@lancashirerugby.com](mailto:mini-junior@lancashirerugby.com)
* The decision of the organisers shall be final and binding on all participants. All competition entrants accept this provision and accept that there shall be no further appeal.
* In the event that a matter cannot be resolved to a clubs satisfaction, the cup competitions secretary may require both clubs to state their respective positions in writing within a stated period of time. There will be then be a consultation with the Organisers and determine an outcome of the matter.
* No member of the mini and junior committee’s shall rule on a matter where they are a member of either club involved.