



## **WHEELCHAIR RUGBY LEAGUE - COMPETITION RULES**

1. Wheelchair Rugby League (WhRL) sits within tier four, five and Six of the RFL competition structure. All teams participating in the WhRL are bound by the RFL Operational Rules for Tiers Four, Five and Six (Operational Rules).

### **2. PROMOTION/RELEGATION**

2.1 Promotion and relegation shall be considered and agreed pre-season. The Management Group shall have the final decision on the composition of the divisions prior to the season commencing.

2.2 If two or more clubs finish level on points at the end of a season and promotion or relegation is involved, then the points gained in league matches between the clubs will decide which club is promoted or relegated.

2.3 If the clubs have equal points then the total scoring difference in the games between the teams will decide which club is promoted or relegated.

2.4 If the scoring difference is identical, then the average of the points scored 'for' in all games which are played – not points awarded games – will decide which club is promoted or relegated.

2.5 If a club withdraws from the League having failed to complete 50% of its scheduled games, then the club's record shall be expunged. If a club completes 50% or more of its scheduled games, the points will be awarded to the opponents with a scoreline of 24-0 for the remaining uncompleted games.

2.6 If a club is expelled or suspended, its record will be expunged, irrespective of how many games that club has played.

### **3. MEMBERSHIP**



## **WHEELCHAIR RUGBY LEAGUE - COMPETITION RULES**

3.1. The annual subscription for membership of the league shall be £50 per first team and £50 for any additional team from the same club.

3.2 Subscription for membership of the League shall be reviewed annually and paid by 31<sup>st</sup> March each season. Any team not having paid its annual subscription by 31<sup>st</sup> March will not be allocated competitive fixtures for the coming season until such fees are paid. Teams will be expected to complete the allocated fixture on a friendly basis with the points being allocated to the opposition

### **4. START AND END DATE OF THE COMPETITION**

4.1 The WhRL Management Group shall determine the commencement date of its competition and the date upon which it shall cease, these dates will fit between the 1<sup>st</sup> March and 30<sup>th</sup> November in any year.

### **5. PLAYER REGISTRATIONS**

5.1.1 All players should be registered in accordance with the Operational Rules. There is no restriction on the maximum number of players allowed to register per team in the WhRL, however fixtures will not be provided until 6 players are registered. The Competition Administrator will confirm the registration process.

5.1.2 New Players can be signed on 'on the day' using the League Net system. Clubs must make every effort to confirm that players are free to register in this manner. Clubs are responsible for ensuring that a player is eligible to play for them before allowing the player to play. A Competition Administrator can be contacted on match day to check a player's eligibility.

5.1.3 At the official conclusion of the season a player is free to register to a new club without a requirement to transfer.

5.1.4 Any club found guilty of playing an ineligible player shall be fined not less than £100-00 and the match may be awarded to their opponents. The offending player may be liable for suspension.



## **WHEELCHAIR RUGBY LEAGUE - COMPETITION RULES**

5.1.5 The loaning of players to a match-day opposition team, to ensure a fixture is completed, is allowed. Loaned players are to identified on the Official Team Sheet - as **“LOAN”**

If ‘loaning’ occurs, the game remains an official fixture. The score-line and result of the actual match stands officially. In other words, if team ‘A’ loans players to team ‘B’ to make up a side, and then team ‘B’ wins the game 10-0, the result stands as a 10-0 victory to team ‘B’. This fact needs to be borne in mind by any club considering ‘loaning’ players on match day.

### **5.2 Transfers**

5.2.1 Clubs may register or transfer players from other clubs, within tiers four, five and six of the competition structure using LeagueNet. It is the responsibility of the Club the player is moving to initiate the transfer. The player has final sign off of the transfer. The process must be completed in full, including player sign off, before a player plays. The Competition Administrator will communicate further details on the process.

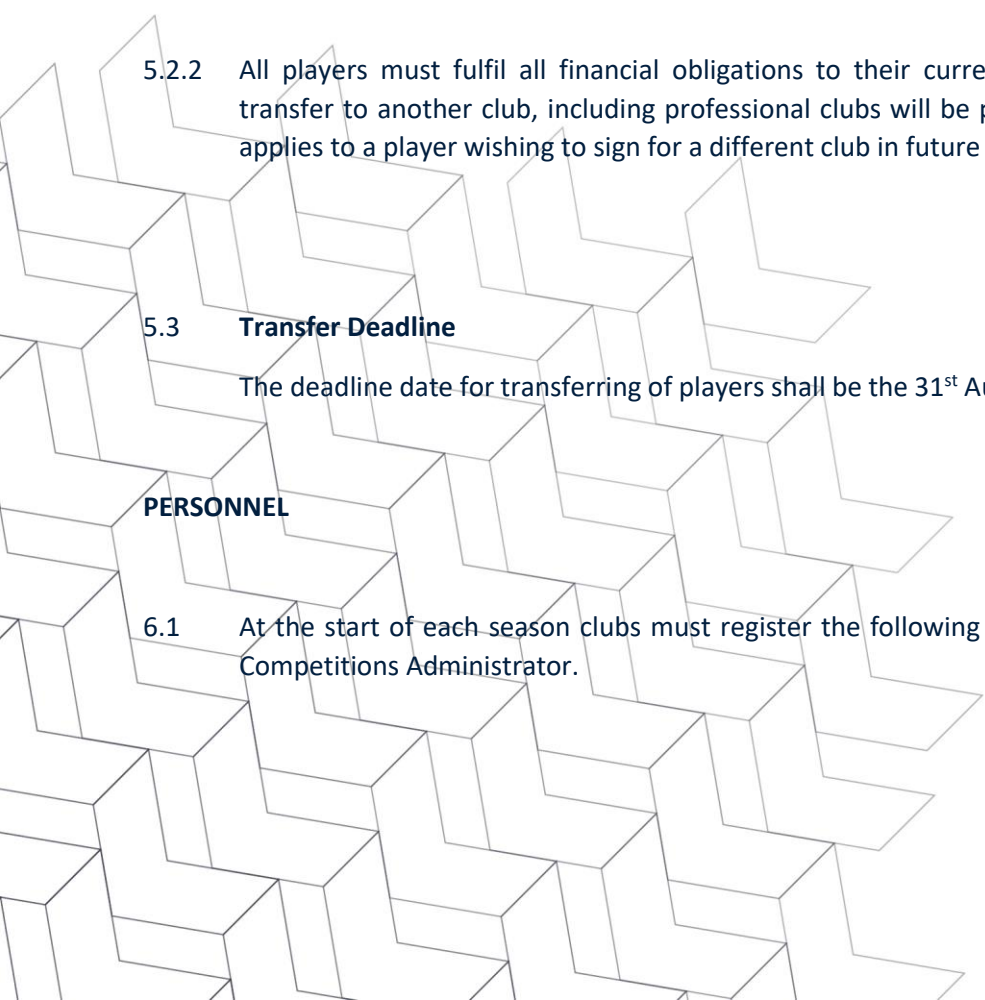
5.2.2 All players must fulfil all financial obligations to their current club before any transfer to another club, including professional clubs will be permitted. This also applies to a player wishing to sign for a different club in future seasons.

### **5.3 Transfer Deadline**

The deadline date for transferring of players shall be the 31<sup>st</sup> August each year.

## **PERSONNEL**

6.1 At the start of each season clubs must register the following personnel with the Competitions Administrator.





## **WHEELCHAIR RUGBY LEAGUE - COMPETITION RULES**

### **6.1.1 Essential**

- a. Club Manager/Secretary
- b. Head Coach (RFL UKCC level 2 qualified with Wheelchair Module)
- c. RFL Accredited Touchline Manager
- d. First Aider

### **6.1.2 Recommended**

- a. Assistant Coach (RFL UKCC level 1 qualified)

6.1.3 Due to the nature of WhRL, Coaches are required to assess the risk, for each game, based on players' capability and take reasonable steps to ensure that players are participating at the appropriate level

## **7 FIXTURES**

7.1 Once fixtures are issued, clubs are to liaise with one another to agree the date, time and venue of the allocated fixtures and confirm details, as soon as possible, to the Competition Administrator.

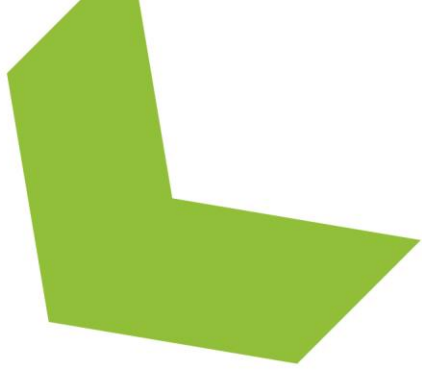
7.2 Postponements will not be considered because of injuries or any other matter not considered exceptional.

7.3 Any club(s) playing a friendly must inform the Competition Administrator so as to ensure coverage of participants by the relevant RFL insurance policy. Permission does not need to be sought for such a fixture.

7.5 If a club is unable to fulfil a fixture, the Club Secretary must inform the Competition Administrator that a mutually agreed rescheduled date is in place or that they are conceding the points.

7.6 Any club failing to fulfil a fixture must pay reasonable expenses to the non-offending club, including the referee's full fee and expenses, which must be paid on the day by the non-offending club and reclaimed by them from the offending club.





## **WHEELCHAIR RUGBY LEAGUE - COMPETITION RULES**

### **MATCH DAY OPERATIONS**

8.1 It is the responsibility of the home club during the week preceding a game (Thursday), to contact both its opponents and Match Official regarding club colours and ground directions. In the event of a colour clash the visiting club must wear an alternative strip.

#### **8.2 Late Start**

Each club shall ensure that its team is ready to take the court before the designated kick off time as and when directed by the Match Officials. The club at fault for the late start of any match shall be guilty of misconduct and may be punished by way of fine or otherwise.

#### **8.3 Post Match Arrangements**

8.3.1 The home club shall be responsible for supplying all the competing players, club officials and appointed Match Officials with a suitable post match meal. The visiting club is obligated to accept such hospitality.

8.3.2 In the case of away clubs failing to fulfil a fixture the home club may also claim up to a maximum of £30 towards refreshment costs.

#### **8.4 Team Sheet/Match Report**

8.4.1 Official team sheets must be completed correctly before the commencement of matches and, on completion of the match, shall be signed by a recognised official from each club and the Match Official.

8.4.2 Completed team sheets should include the full forename and surname (no initials), of all participants and must be sent by the home club official to the Competitions Administrator.





## **WHEELCHAIR RUGBY LEAGUE - COMPETITION RULES**

### **8.5 Reporting Results**

8.5.1 The home club, in consultation with the Match Official and designated officer from the opposition, must agree the result immediately on completion of the game and enter the result on to LeagueNet within 60 minutes. Failure to comply could result in a £10 administration fine.

### **8.6 Fielding of ineligible players**

The selection and fielding by clubs of ineligible players will incur a fine of £100 per player coupled with the loss of competition points for the matches involved. The WhRL Management Group reserves the right, in the case of a club having been found guilty of fielding an ineligible player for that club to seek re-election, face suspension or expulsion from the competition. In the case of the latter all results from that club's games played shall be expunged from the competition records.

### **8.7 Abandonment of Games**

If a game is abandoned with more than three-quarters of the playing time elapsed, the result shall stand until otherwise determined by the Management Group. If less than three-quarters of the playing time has elapsed the WhRL Management Group, at its sole discretion, may order a game to be re-played.

### **8.8 Postponements**

8.8.1 In the unlikely event of the home club suspecting that its venue will not be fit for play owing to any cause, the home club must immediately call a Match Official on the approved list recognised by the RFL to carry out a court inspection. If the Match Official states the court is not fit for play, and in their opinion there is no chance of it being so before the scheduled kick off, then that decision must be communicated immediately to the visiting Club, appointed Match Official and the Competition's Administrator. Any club failing to fulfil this instruction shall be subject to disciplinary action.



## **WHEELCHAIR RUGBY LEAGUE - COMPETITION RULES**

Match Official and the Competition's Administrator. Any club failing to fulfil this instruction shall be subject to disciplinary action.

8.8.2 All postponements must be notified to the Competitions Administrator as soon as possible.

### **8.9 Requests for Postponement due to Representative Rugby League**

8.9.1 A club with four or more players selected to participate in a RFL recognised representative fixture may apply to postpone its domestic fixture scheduled that week-end.

8.9.2 Such club applications should be submitted in writing and lodged with the Competition Administrator and copied to the clubs opponents for receipt within 96 hours of the scheduled representative match.

8.9.3 The RFL recognised representative fixtures are England, Scotland Ireland or Wales International fixtures.

## **9 DISCIPLINE, SUSPENSIONS AND FINES**

9.1 A WhRL discipline panel is in place to deal with all discipline matters arising. The disciplinary panel shall have the full power to expel, suspend and/or fine any club, player, official or other person found guilty of misconduct and/or breach of the rules and to order them to meet any costs incurred. The RFL Community Game Discipline Procedures and Guidelines will be used as the disciplinary framework.

9.2 A written report of a Match Official on the misconduct of any club, player or official must be sent via email to the Competition Administrator with a copy to the offending club for receipt inside three days from the conclusion of the game – intervening Bank Holidays excluded.

9.3 Reports of brawling – defined as three or more players involved - should via email be sent by the Match Official, for receipt within three days of a game's conclusion, to the Competition Administrator. Separate copies of the report must be lodged by the Match Official with the clubs concerned.



## **WHEELCHAIR RUGBY LEAGUE - COMPETITION RULES**

- 9.4 Any club which does not receive from the Match Official within three days a report outlining a dismissal or brawl having occurred should contact the Competition Administrator immediately. The failure of a club to receive a written report will not prevent action being dealt by the relevant discipline committee.
- 9.5 A reported club, player, official or any other person may, to defend an allegation of misconduct, send a letter for receipt by the Competition Administrator within ten days of the date of the match. The club or such persons may in their own defence request a personal appearance and/or bring witnesses to the hearing, provided that they notify the Competition Administrator within ten days of the alleged offence and send with it a deposit of £20.00 payable to the "RFL" The deposit shall be refunded at the hearing, provided that the appellant or their designated representative attends in person.
- 9.6 DVD evidence shall be an accepted method through which to defend the alleged actions that have been reported to the committee by a Match Official.
- 9.7 Club secretaries or their deputies, pursuant to the hearing having not received a verdict after five days, should contact the Competition Administrator regarding the result.
- 9.8 Should a case of alleged assault by a player, club official or spectator be lodged it will be reported to the Competition Administrator by a Match Official. The Match Official will then be instructed to make himself available to the disciplinary committee, for the purposes of interview, due notice of which shall be given in writing. A Match Official shall in such circumstances be entitled to claim reasonable travel expenses.
- 9.9 A player's suspension shall commence on the Saturday following the meeting at which the suspension was imposed, with the exception of any suspension of six matches or more which shall take immediate effect.
- 9.10 All organised competition games, (including RFL representative games) provided that they were arranged prior to the player's offence may be counted towards his list of suspended games.





## **WHEELCHAIR RUGBY LEAGUE - COMPETITION RULES**

- 9.11 A suspended player is not permitted to play in any other game of rugby league until his suspension is served. Any player or club violating this rule will be fined not less than £100 and the offending player shall be suspended for a further six matches. In the event of a game having being won by a club fielding a player under suspension then the competition points gained shall be forfeited automatically. The Management Group, should it deem appropriate, reserves the right to apply other sanctions which may include a club's suspension or expulsion from the competition.
- 9.12 All fines, payable to the RFL must be settled within 28 days and must be forwarded to the Competition Administrator. Failure to meet this obligation shall result in the fine being doubled automatically. If a further seven days elapse without receipt of payment then the club's fixtures will be suspended.
- 9.13 Each club is responsible for the behaviour of its players, committee and spectators.
- 9.14 Each club should appoint a Touchline/Match Day Manager whose responsibility lies in the control and monitoring of spectators for the smooth running of the day.

## **10 APPEALS**

- 10.1 All appeals against disciplinary sanctions imposed by the WRL are to be dealt with by an independent RFL appointed panel.
- 10.2 Clubs who have the right to appeal may do so within 14 days of a decision made. A £40.00 fee, payable to the "RFL", should be submitted together with an accompanying letter outlining the reason why the appeal is sought. This must be forwarded to the Competitions Administrator.
- 10.3 An appeal by a club may be based solely on the following grounds: a) the finding of guilt or b) the severity of sentence imposed.
- 10.4 No member of the Management Group actively involved in a decision taken at the initial hearing other than the Competition Administrator - who has no voting rights - shall be permitted to adjudicate on matters which will be the subject of appeal.
- 10.5 Adjudication by the Appeals Panel precludes the right of individual players or their clubs towards seeking a further representation.