



Meeting:	Mini and Junior Rugby Section Open Forum
Held at:	Liverpool St Helens RUFC
At:	7.00pm on 13 th September 2017
Chairman:	Ian Spivey
Present:	Mike Murphy (Secretary) Christine Spivey (Safeguarding) Allen Bower (Competitions Secretary) Alan Whalley (U15 and U16 Results Secretary) George Glenn (RDO) John Foster (RDO) Roger Berry (Sedgeley Park) George Baldry (West Park) Graham Good (Bolton) David Craven (LSH) Ian Graydon (Firwood Waterloo) Scott Evans (Vale of Lune) Cheryl Dagnall (Wigan)

1. Apologies

Steve Blackburn

Val Blackburn

Kate Benetta

2. Previous Minutes

Agreed by default

3. Actions/Matters Arising

None

4. Chairman's Introduction

4.1 The M&J Committee has been able to divide the workload of managing results, league tables, etc amongst a number of people acting as Results Secretaries for the different age groups. Contact details for these individuals will be published on the web site, Facebook, etc on the 14th September.

5. Lancashire Waterfall

5.1 A number of specific questions were asked about the recently published rules:

5.1.1 Re 3.3.1: Will there be specific match cards for U12s, albeit that their use is optional?

No, coaches should use the U13s card, ignoring the elements which are inapplicable to U12s rugby.

5.1.2 Re 3.5.1: How are host clubs expected to meet the requirement to arrange referees, especially as in many cases matches will be being played in parallel?

In an ideal world, all matches would be refereed by an independent person. It is recognised that this is not always possible. Clubs are asked to make their best efforts on the day, for example by asking a coach from a team not involved in the match to act as referee. The M&J Committee is anxious to encourage as much communication and cooperation between coaches on match days as possible, and agreeing on refereeing is an obvious example of where this might occur.

5.1.3 Re 3.5.3: How is this to be interpreted?

Essentially, the intention is to replicate what happens in senior rugby where each side provides a touch judge; in this situation referees generally request TJs not to signal (for example) foul play or offside. It is recognised however that the referee is in charge and can make his or her own decision on the day as to how the TJs are to operate.

5.1.4 Re 3.6.4: Where one team fails to attend a waterfall event can additional rugby be played to 'make up the time'. In principle yes, as the objective is to get children playing rugby. Arrangements on the day are at the discretion of the coaches, but attention is drawn to the maximum playing times stipulated by RFU Regulation 15.14.1¹.

¹ http://www.englandrugby.com/mm/Document/General/General/01/31/97/52/RFURegulation152016-2017_English.pdf

5.2 From more general discussion:

5.2.1 Will a list of club contacts be issued?

No, although specific details can be issued on an ad hoc basis. Appropriate details should be available on the Game Management System (GMS) to which the person responsible for registration at each club will have access.

5.2.2 What happens after the pool stages of the waterfall?

Matches in further stages of the waterfall will be arranged based on performance during the pool stage so that teams are pitched against others at a comparable stage of development.

5.2.3 Is it possible for the 2018-19 fixture dates to be announced earlier, as many clubs start trying to make arrangements for their following season from early in the current one?

The M&J Committee are constrained in this respect by the Structured Season, details of which do not become available until January. Every effort will be made to communicate with clubs as early as possible.

5.2.4 Can competitive fixtures in September be avoided? Concern was expressed that coaches with too much of a 'winning mentality' might start to introduce contact training in August in order to prepare for such matches.

Once again, the M&J Committee is constrained by the structured season. Given the numbers of teams coming forward it is not possible to avoid the use of September dates. Clubs are reminded that for U12s contact in August is outside the regulations, and any resulting injuries might make coaches liable.

5.2.5 Concern was expressed that the new rules do not explicitly allow for appropriate flexibility and the use of common sense.

There is no intention on the part of the M&J Committee to be inflexible except where RFU regulations impose limitations. The Committee will consider adding something to section 3.1 of the rules to emphasise the application of flexibility and common sense. It was noted that there may be suitable forms of words in the RFU guidance notes to regulation 15.



6. Lancashire Courses

- 6.1 The Level 1 and 2 coaching courses have been replaced by a single England Coaching Award. This is equivalent to the level 2 qualification and is available to coaches from 16 years of age. This qualification is relevant to coaches dealing with all age groups from U9 and is supported by a series of CPD courses dealing with both age group and positional specialities. One reason for the introduction of this new qualification is to ensure that all coaches are entitled to lead sessions (level 1 coaches being only entitled to assist).
- 6.2 The ELRA course has been replaced by the England Rugby Refereeing Award. The level 1 referees' course is still available to potential referees from 14 years of age.
- 6.3 The Rugby Ready and Scrum Factory courses are still available as CPD courses but are no longer pre-requisites to the England Coaching Award.
- 6.4 In the Greater Manchester area specific CPD courses are available for coaches of U7s and U8s. These are being held on the 17th and 24th of this month, at Sedgley Park, and can be booked via the web site.
- 6.5 Rugby Aware and Activate sessions can be arranged at clubs on request. Contact your RDO or CRC.

7. Other Business

- 7.1 Girls rugby is outside the remit of the Lancashire M&J Committee. Information on this topic is available from Helen Duggan (Lancs Women and Girls Forum).
- 7.2 It was noted that players' identification photographs are sometimes so long out of date as to be of limited use. Clubs should encourage parents to provide a reasonably up to date picture when registering players.
- 7.3 The general shortage of referees was recognised. It was noted that the County has resources available to assist in running refereeing courses where a demand exists.
- 7.4 Clubs were reminded that the permission of the County M&J Chairman is required for any planned tournament or festival. Reasonable notice should be given to ensure that the Chairman has time to respond in plenty of time for the event.



8. Future Meetings

- 8.1 The next AGM will be held on Wednesday 30th May 2018 (venue to be announced).
- 8.2 The next open forum will be held on 2nd February 2018 (venue to be announced).