

1. THE COMPETITION

- 1.1 A Waterfall competition is defined as a “competitive playing programme **where equal participation/progression is the emphasis**”¹.
- 1.2 The Lancashire Waterfall is administered by the Junior Competitions Committee of the Lancashire County RFU and its Secretary through the Mini and Junior Committee (the Organisers).
- 1.3 The Waterfall is designed to encourage the maximum interest in the development of Rugby Union played in clubs throughout Lancashire. The aim is to encourage **'More People. More Teams and More Enjoyment' in rugby.**
- 1.4 The competition structure is to be known as the Lancashire Waterfall.
- 1.5 Every endeavour will be made by the Organisers to ensure that the Lancashire Waterfall structure, announcement of fixtures, reporting of matches and recording of results are referred to by the above name in all articles, publications, handbooks, journals and websites, together with whatever logo or other device the Organisers, in conjunction with any sponsors, shall deem it appropriate to use.
- 1.6 All participating clubs are expected to follow the same guidelines when referring to the Lancashire Waterfall structure in their locality in newspapers, web sites or other publicity, fixture lists, advertising, match results and reports.

2. COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 Entry to the Lancashire Waterfall is open to Under-12s through to Under-13s for all clubs that are members of Lancashire County RFU.
- 2.2 All players taking part in the Lancashire Waterfall must be under their respective age at 24.00hrs on 31 August of the relevant year.
- 2.3 **Every player MUST be both a signed up member of their club and also registered with the Lancashire County RFU through the Young Player Registration Scheme on GMS before taking part in any Lancashire Waterfall match.**
- 2.4 RFU Young Player Registration must be completed and entered on GMS by the club's registration officer for every squad member.

¹ http://www.englandrugby.com/mm/Document/General/General/01/31/80/26/AgeGradeRugbyCompetitiveMenu_English.pdf

Lancashire County RFU and the Competition Organisers expect all participating clubs to adhere to the [Age Grade Rugby Codes of Practice](#)

- 2.5 Any player who takes part in any round of the Lancashire Waterfall for one Club and thereafter transfers to another club is prohibited from playing for his new club in any further Waterfall matches. Where the Organisers become aware of any breach of this rule they may, at their discretion, award the match in question to the non-offending team; this may affect how the offending team advances to further rounds of the competition (cf 3.3.1 below).
- 2.6 A player may play up one age grade provided that dispensation has been granted by the Lancashire RFU as detailed in [RFU Regulation 15 – Age Grade Rugby](#) a copy of which is appended to this document. **A copy of the completed dispensation form must be carried at all times by the player's coach/manager.**

3. Conduct of Matches

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 U13 festivals must take place on the dates specified at the beginning of the season in the Lancashire Age Grade Playing Calendar and the fixture list, with no alternative dates being allowed, subject to very exceptional circumstances. Where a club feels that such exceptional circumstances apply, application should be made to the Organisers for specific authority to re-arrange the fixture.
- 3.1.2 U12 festivals may take place on alternative dates subject to the permission of the Organisers and the constraints of the Age Grade Playing Calendar.
- 3.1.3 In the event of adverse weather conditions on the day of the festival, the referee's decision as to the starting of the match or its continuation shall be final.
- 3.1.4 All matches will cease being a **Waterfall Game** after reaching a **30 point margin**. It is hoped that the teams involved in such games turn the rest of the match into a development game. A development game will involve both teams making sure that fringe players are more prominent wherever possible, mixing and evening the teams up, players playing out of position, etc, recognising that the front row rules must still be observed.

3.2 Player Identification

- 3.2.1 All players or their coaches must be in possession of a valid RFU Registration card/sheet containing multiple ID cards issued under the RFU Young Player Registration Scheme, incorporating a photograph of the player, the players club, and the date of birth along with the players RFU Number.
- 3.2.2 Team managers, coaches or administrators are required as part of the pre-match routine to carefully inspect the registration cards of their opponents. A challenge on a player must be made at the time of the match and not afterwards.
- 3.2.3 Notwithstanding the provisions in 3.2.2 above, during or immediately after a Lancashire Waterfall match all registration cards should be made available for inspection by opposing coaches, managers or administrators and the Organisers or other County officials.
- 3.2.4 Except in exceptional circumstances, a team failing to produce a correct, valid registration card (or sheet containing multiple cards) for each player before a match may forfeit the match and any other further participation for that season.

3.3 Match Reporting

- 3.3.1 Match reporting is compulsory for U13 Waterfall days, however “the outcome of your pool games are recorded to enable every team to advance to later rounds for an equal number of matches against similar level teams”¹ and so the Organisers would be pleased if coaches/managers of U12 teams would complete match report forms to assist in meeting this objective.
- 3.3.2 Match Report Forms must be fully completed on the day of the game.
- 3.3.3 The following details should be completed before the start of the match:
- (i) Home Team, Age Group, Round number (by reference to published fixtures list) and the breakdown of the full match result.
 - (ii) The full squad, both starting and replacements, with the RFU registration number (last 4 digits will suffice).

¹ http://www.englandrugby.com/mm/Document/General/General/01/31/80/26/AgeGradeRugbyCompetitiveMenu_English.pdf

- (iii) The names of both Coaches or managers responsible for completion.
 - (iv) The details of the match official in charge of the game.
- 3.3.4 Following each match the analysis of the score shall be added for both teams against each player, with red and yellow cards indicated.
- 3.3.5 The result should be emailed by both teams to the address given on the Match Report Form by 6pm Monday following the match. The Match Report Form(s) must be attached to this e-mail in PDF format.
- 3.3.6 Both managers/Coaches of each team are responsible for texting the result to the number specified on the Match Report Form no later than 6pm on the day of the match.
- 3.4 Playing Strip - Colours
 - 3.4.1 In the event of a clash **'The Home Team'** will change their playing strip.
- 3.5 Referees and Discipline
 - 3.5.1 The responsibility for arranging the referee for all matches lies with the host club.
 - 3.5.1 A player sent off during a game by a match official must be notified on the Match Report Form. A player sent off during a game by a match official must be notified on the Match Report Form and reported to the county discipline secretary. He will then advise the club on how to proceed. All youth disciplinary's should be carried out in accordance with youth discipline guidance contained within the regulations
 - 3.5.2 Clubs are expected to provide a responsible person to act as touch judge or assistant referee (TJ) in all matches and to assist the referee in matters affecting the touchline only. Referees are requested to take the advice of a club TJ only on decisions relating to the touch line or the kicking of a conversion or penalty at posts.

3.6 Playing Regulations

- 3.6.1 Matches will be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game (Law 3: Number of Players) as published by the IRB and the Age Grade Regulations as published by the RFU. All players named in the squad on the Match Report Form **must play at least half a game in accordance with regulations of the game¹** except on occasions when a player is taken ill just before the game or injured in the warm up. How the time is split is entirely at the coach/managers discretion.
- 3.6.2 On the grounds of safety, player development and fairness, if a team is unable to field a full team, the opposition will be restricted to that number. The squad from will have spaces for 25 named players if you have more in your squad then please use a new form. It is hoped that teams will communicate and express an interest in fair play, development and enjoyment of the game.
- 3.6.3 All matches will allow the use of 'rolling substitutes' (the replacement of players during the match) providing permission has been sought from the Referee and the replacement takes place during a stoppage in play.
- 3.6.4 Match times and ball sizes are as follows:
- **Under 12s**
Where two matches are to be played in a day
10 minutes each way Ball size 4
Where one match is to be played in a day
20 minutes each way Ball size 4
 - **Under 13s 25 minutes each way Ball size 4**
- 3.6.5 Following the spirit of age grade rugby, the maximum point's difference to be recorded and reported by a club to the Organisers or any other party regarding any Lancashire Waterfall fixture, other than the Final, shall be 30 points in accordance with rule 3.1.4 above.

¹ In line with emerging RFU thinking, the Organisers would prefer that each named player should take part in at least half a game.

4. General Conduct

- 4.1 The County and the Organisers take the gravest view of inappropriate conduct by players or spectators. It is the responsibility of each Club to control the behavior of its players, coaches, managers, administrators and spectators and all clubs must be aware of, and uphold, the RFU's 'Fair Play' Codes of Conduct.
- 4.2 In the event of a report being received of a failure to observe acceptable conduct the Organisers shall take, on behalf of the County, any such action against the offending team as it considers appropriate including, but not limited to, ordering the re-playing of the match, awarding the match to the other side, or excluding the team from the remainder of the competition.
- 4.3 NB. The County has the power to suspend or disband Mini and Junior sections.**

5. Interpretation of the Rules

- 5.1 Any appeal or dispute must be notified in writing to the Organisers within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match. Such notification must be given by the Mini and Junior Chairman as identified on the club's application to take part in the challenge.
- 5.2 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, other than as stated in paragraph 5.3 below
- 5.3 In the event that a matter cannot be resolved to a club's satisfaction, the Cup Competition Committee Secretary may require both clubs to state their respective positions in writing within such period as he deems reasonable, and following consultation with the Organisers will determine the outcome of the dispute.
- 5.4 No member of the Cup Competitions Committee, or if appropriate the Mini and Junior Committee, should rule on a matter where they are a member of either club involved.