

	ENTRY TO THE COMPETITION
1	The Lancashire Junior Rugby Challenge is administered by the 7-16 committee of the Lancashire County RFU through the junior Competitions Committee and its Secretary (The Organisers)
2	<p>(i) The competition structure is to be known as the Junior Rugby Challenge</p> <p>(ii) Every endeavour will be made by its organisers to ensure that the competition structure, announcement of fixtures, reporting of matches and recording of results are referred to by the above names in all articles, publications, handbooks, journals and websites, together with whatever logo or other device the organisers, in conjunction with any sponsors shall deem appropriate to use.</p> <p>(iii) All participating clubs are expected to follow the same guidelines when referring to the Junior Rugby Challenge structure in their locality, in newspapers, web sites or other publicity, fixture lists, advertising, match results and reports.</p>
3	<p>The Junior Rugby Challenge Committee shall be the sole arbiter in cases of dispute, and from its decision there shall be no appeal at law or otherwise, other than in exceptional circumstances to the Rugby Football Union.</p> <p>Any appeal must be lodged within 48 hrs of the conclusion of the match.</p>
4	<p>Entry to the Junior Rugby Challenge is open to under 12's through to under 16's for all clubs that are members of Lancashire County RFU.</p> <p>The Lancashire Junior Rugby Challenge</p>
5	The Rugby Challenge is designed to encourage the maximum interest in the development of the Rugby Union played in clubs throughout Lancashire. The aim is to encourage 'More People, More Teams, and More Enjoyment' in rugby.
6	<p>(i) Four Qualifying Pools (Q. Pools) are established at each of the three age groups (u14, u15, u16) into which all entrants are placed by way of a draw or other means as the Organisers consider appropriate. The decision as to whether to seed teams, and the method of any seeding and the conduct of any draw will be at the discretion of The Organisers.</p> <p>(ii) Club will play each other within each Q. Pool on a 'Home or Away basis, as determined by The organisers on specified days.</p> <p>(iii) U13s WATERFALL TOURNAMENT....A competitive playing programme. Where equal participation/progression is the emphasis. The outcome of the pool games are recorded to enable every team to advance to later rounds for an equal number of matches against similar level teams. The draw for the final 3 stages will be made after round 7 by The Organisers</p> <p>(iv) U14's/15's/16's The higher placed side will gain a home draw in the next stage of the tournament (Quarter Final) stage.</p> <p>(v) At the end of the Under 14,15,16 Q. Pool stage twenty four teams having been seeded into pools dependent on their performance in the previous season, will advance to the three competitions depending on their pool and position in the pool.</p> <p>(vi) A Bowl competition will be run where there are sufficient teams(over the 24) in that age group.</p> <p>(vii) Any side trying to take an unfair advantage of their position to enter a different knock out competition may be disqualified from the whole competition.</p> <p>(viii) As a trial for 2016-17 a development cup will be run for teams knocked out at QF Stages. A draw will take place by The Organisers for the Development Cup, Plate & Vase matches to be played on the 9th April, 30th April & 7th May</p> <p>Qualifying Pool Positions</p>
7	<p>The overall position in the Q.Pools will be determined by :</p> <p>(i) points accumulated based on the match result of each game (including bonus points gained or penalty points deducted), adjusted for any side not fulfilling their fixtures.</p> <p>(ii) Scored points difference (points for less against) subject to 30 -point margin, adjusted for a side not fulfilling fixtures.</p> <p>(iii) If teams remained tied, the result between the two sides, and finally, if the matter is still unresolved the total tries, then conversions, then drop goals, then penalties.</p> <p>If still tied, The organisers shall determine the respective positions by the way of a tossed coin.</p> <p>Conduct of Competition Matches</p>
8	(i) Competition matches, including all Q Pool and knock out fixtures, must be played on the dates for each round as specified at the beginning of the season in the Lancashire Structured Season, and the fixture list, with no alternative days being allowed at any group, subject to very exceptional circumstances.

	<p>(ii) Competition dates are scheduled, where possible, to avoid county representative matches.</p> <p>(iii) If a match is to be cancelled by the 'home club', the match can be played 'away' if circumstances allow it.</p> <p>(iv) If circumstances do not allow the transfer of venue, both sides will gain the points for a 'No Result'.</p> <p>(v) If The Organisers determine that any side deliberately fails to play, or fails to continue to play, a fixture for whatever reason, all points from that match shall be forfeited.</p> <p>(vi) In the event of adverse weather conditions on the day of the match, the referee's decision as to the starting of the match or its continuation shall be final.</p> <p>(vii) All matches will cease after reaching a 40 point margin, and reformed development games are encouraged. A development game will involve both teams making sure that fringe players are more prominent where ever possible.</p> <p>(viii) Teams in a reformed match, starting a new game with any replacements, will each receive a 'Fair play Credit'</p>
	Eligibility of Players
9	All players taking part in the Rugby Junior Challenge must be under their respective age at 24.00hrs on 31 st August of the relevant year.
10	<p>(i) 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 before taking part in any Challenge match</p> <p>(ii) RFU Young Player Registration forms must be completed and entered on GMS by the clubs registration officer for every squad member.</p> <p>(iii) Players MUST NOT play in more than one match on any challenge date.</p> <p>(iv) Any player who takes part in any round of the competition for one Club, and thereafter transfers to another club, is prohibited from playing for his new club in any further Challenge matches.</p> <p>(v) Any player sent off by a match official in any of the challenge matches will be subject to any tariff imposed by the players club.</p> <p>(vi) A player 'playing up one age grade' is permitted, if recommended by the players club. Providing that the appropriate risk assessments are carried out and the correct dispensation form from, the CB is filled in. The club sanctions this dispensation, but a copy of the completed form MUST be carried at all times by the player's coach/manager and a copy must be sent to CB Safeguarding Manager to be put on file.</p>
	Player Identification
11	<p>(i) All players or their coaches must be in possession of a valid RFU Registration card 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.</p> <p>(ii) Team managers, coaches or administrators are requested 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.</p> <p>(iii) Notwithstanding the provisions in (ii) above, during or immediately after a competition match all registration cards should be made available for inspection by opposing coaches, managers or administrators and The Organisers or other County officials.</p> <p>(iv) 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.</p>
	Postponements
12	<p>(i) No postponements or re-arrangement of Q. Pool matches are permitted, other than by The Organisers. In the case of unplayable weather conditions including frozen or water logged pitches both teams shall be awarded a no result.</p> <p>(ii) Except in exceptional circumstances, determined by The Organisers and from whom specific authority will be given, the postponement of a knock out stage match will not be permitted. Application should be made to The Organisers.</p> <p>(iii) In the case of player injury or unavailability, Challenge matches may be played using 'uncontested scrums' should at any time a side be unable to field an experienced or trained front row. The match referee MUST be informed before kick off of a player shortage and the match report form noted accordingly.</p> <p>(iv) Any team failing to fulfill a scheduled knock out stage fixture may be removed from the Challenge and the opposing team will be judged to have won that round of the Challenge and progress to the next round.</p>

	Challenge Organisation
13	<p>Match Report Forms Match report forms must be fully completed on the day of the game. The Organisers will accept a team sheet for each being submitted – provided that BOTH sheets are signed by the signatory to the other sheet, and the score is noted on both sheets. The Match Report Form Requires....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The completion of the Home Team, Away Team, Age Group, Match Number (by reference to published fixtures list) and the breakdown of the full match result. (ii) The completion of the full squad, both starting and as replacements, with the RFU registration number (last 4 digits will suffice) (iii) The analysis of the score for both teams against each player, with red and yellow cards indicated. (iv) The names of both Coaches or manager responsible for completion. (v) The details of the match official in charge of the game. <p>FOLLOWING THE MATCH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (vi) The result should be emailed to the appropriate email address as indicated on the match report form by 6pm Monday following the match. (vii) The match report form(s) must be sent by PDF attachment to the appropriate email address in the match report form. (viii) Both managers/Coaches of each team are responsible for texting the result to 07399148564 no later than 6pm on the day of the match. (ix) Failure to report a result will incur penalty points, as well will the failure to submit the match report forms by 6pm on Monday following Sundays game. Penalty will be 2 points. <p>Playing Strip - Colours</p>
14	<p>In the event of a clash 'The Home Team' will change their playing strip</p> <p>Referees and Discipline</p>
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The Organisers recognise that there may not be sufficient Society Referees available from the Manchester, Liverpool or Furness Societies to officiate at all fixtures throughout the Q.Pool stages. It is good practice to seek Society Referees for the Quarter Final & Semi Final stages in all ages although due to the shortage of referees this can not be made an absolute rule. Home teams should seek help from away teams if they are having difficulty in finding Society referees for Quarter Finals and Semi Finals. (ii) Where ever possible under 15's & 16's matches should obtain a Society appointment (iii) All clubs should look to encouraging Clubs to take the Entry Level Referee Certificate. (iv) The responsibility for arranging the referee at all matches lies with the home club. If it is not possible for the home club to appoint a Society Referee or an accredited Foundation Referee, the opposition must be notified in advance of the game and given opportunity to supply a society referee. (v) The obligation to provide a suitable alternative official remains with the home club. (vi) A player sent off during a game by a match official must be notified on the Match Report Form. (vii) The organisers may request from a none society match official, whose contact details must be added to the MATCH Report Form, a report of any sending off, the responsibility for this contact being ultimately with the home club. (viii) The sanction notwithstanding the result of any disciplinary action that may subsequently arise. <p>The Organisers wish to encourage the use of Junior Referees. An award will be made to the most promising junior referee, who has attained at least the ELRA/National Foundation Certificate Level One, and is in the under 19's age group or below, taking charge of any match within the challenge structure. Clubs are encouraged to advise The Organisers.</p> <p>Clubs are expected to provide a responsible person to act as a 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.</p> <p>Playing Regulations</p>
16	<p>Teams will be of 15-a-side with up to 7 replacements, to be used 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, subject to the following matters. All players named in the squad on the match report form must play at least some part in the game. There may be occasions when a player is taken ill just before the game or injured in the warm up and hence</p>

would not have to play in the game.

(i) On the grounds of safety, player development and fairness, if a team is unable to field a full team 15 players, the opposition will be restricted to that number (minimum of 12) plus one additional player. The squad from which replacements may be drawn remains at 22.

(ii) 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.

(iii) Every team must include on the pitch, at all times, players who are recognised and have trained as front row players, and are used to playing Loose Head, Hooker and Tight Head to enable the formation of a frontrow.

(iv) If a team names 20 or more players, it must have at least 6 players who can play in the front row to allow adequate cover. If not, it is the responsibility of the coach to advise the referee of the situation.

(v) Those who are replacements for the front row should be marked as such on the Match Report Form.

(vi) Where, through injury or otherwise, a side is unable to continue with recognised and trained front rows, it is the responsibility of the coach to inform the referee. The match will continue, with 'uncontested scrums'.

(vii) Match times and ball sizes are as follows:

Under 14s	25 minutes each way	Ball size 4
Under 15s	30 minutes each way	Ball size 5
Under 16s	35 minutes each way	Ball size 5

(viii) Following the spirit of **age-grade rugby**, the maximum points difference to be recorded and reported by a club to The Organisers or any other party regarding any Competition fixture, other than the Final, shall be 30 points.

(ix) NB Matches stop at a 40-point margin. Following consultation with the referee and opposing coach, the early closure of the fixture shall be stopped. The game should be encouraged to carry on as a development game. ie: mix and even the teams up, players playing out of position etc, the front row rules must still be observed.

Points Structure

- 17 Win: 5 points; Draw: 3 points; Lose with a Bonus Point for margin of 10 points or less: 2 points; Lose: 1 point Match not played - 2 points to both sides; Failure to play - 0 points.

Penalties (Points Deductions):

Failure to supply RFU numbers on the standard Match Report Form: 0.25 points per player (max 2pts) Failure, by the Winning side or home drawing side, to return the completed, signed Match Report Form by text or email: 2 points Publishing, or allowing to be published, a match score with a margin of more than 30 points: Up to 2 points

Knock Out Results

- 18 In the event of a draw at full time, no extra time may be played in any match. The result shall be decided:

- (i) by the team scoring the most tries, or
- (ii) if still equal, the team scoring the most conversions will progress, or
- (iii) if still equal, the team scoring the most penalties will progress, or
- (iv) if still equal, the visiting team shall be declared the winner
- (v) In any Final, in the event of a draw at full-time after applying i, ii and iii above, it will jointly shared

Finals Venues

- 19 The venue and date for the Finals Day of the Challenge Cup, and County Plate and County Vase Competitions will be agreed by The Organisers and notified to clubs during the season.
- 20 Quarter & Semi Final matches re-arranged to a later date through bad weather may be reversed by The Organisers to the 'Away' ground, with the original 'Home' team still being recognised as the 'Home' team in all respects.

Fair Play Awards

21	<p>A separate 'Fair Play' trophy will be awarded in respect of each age group at the conclusion of the season, to reflect Clubs' disciplinary records, including accumulated red and yellow cards, and credit will be given to sides who field, and use, or agree to play a fixture of less than 12-a-side 'for Fair Play'.</p> <p>(i) The overall award will be at the discretion of The Organisers, but</p> <p>(ii) All sides commence with 15 credits, from which 3 will be deducted for a Yellow card, and 5 for a Redcard.</p> <p>(iii) One credit will be awarded for matches where teams name and use - by noting the match report forms - 18 or more players in any match, and for teams supplying a 250 word match report for the competition website or photographs.</p> <p>(iv) Where a team cannot raise 12 players for the fixture, the game should be played as a friendly using all available players from both teams</p>
	General Conduct
22	<p>(i) The County and The Organisers take the gravest view of inappropriate conduct by players or spectators.</p> <p>(ii) It is the responsibility of the Club to control the behaviour 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.</p> <p>(iii) 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 replaying of the match, awarding the match to the other side, or excluding the team from the remainder of the competition. NB. The County has the power to suspend or disband Mini & Junior sections.</p>
	Interpretation of the Rules
23	<p>(i) No member of the Cup Competitions Committee, or if appropriate the Mini & Junior or 7-16 Committee, shall rule on a matter where they are a member of either club involved.</p> <p>(ii) In the event that a matter cannot be resolved to a club's satisfaction, the Cup Competition Committee Secretary may require both respective 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.</p> <p>(iii) The decision of the Junior Rugby Challenge Committee shall be final and binding on all participants. All competition enterants accept this provision and accept that there shall be no further appeal, other than as stated in Paragraph 3</p>