



## **WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE - COMPETITION RULES 2019**

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1. The "Women's Super League" (WSL) sits within tier four of the RFL competition structure. All teams participating in the WRL are bound by the RFL Operational Rules for Tiers Four, Five and Six (Operational Rules).

### **1.1 Intellectual Property Rights**

Each Club hereby acknowledges and agrees that the beneficial title to all copyright, trade marks (whether registered or not) and any other intellectual property rights subsisting or which may in the future subsist in the Women's Super League or any other leagues or competitions organised or controlled by the RFL and in any logo relating to or connected with any such league or competitions (the League Intellectual Property Rights) is and shall be remain the sole property of the RFL

## **2. TABLES AND FIXTURES**

- 2.1 The League competition tables shall be compiled by the RFL. The position shall be determined by the number of completed matches with points being awarded as follows: two points for each Match won; and one point for each Match drawn.
- 2.2 The Club with the highest number of points shall be at the top of the league table and the Club with the lowest shall be at the bottom. Where Clubs have an equal number of points their relative positions shall be determined by points difference so that the Club having the greater points difference is placed above the Club with the lesser points difference. The points difference is calculated by subtracting the points scored against the Club from the points scored by the Club. If that still leads to a tie, then the Club with the greater points percentage during the Season will be placed in the higher position. The points percentage is calculated by dividing the number of points scored by a Club by the number of points it concedes and multiplying by 100. If the positions are still equal, positions will be determined by the toss of a coin which shall be carried out at such time and place as the RFL shall direct and those Clubs concerned shall be entitled to witness the toss.

## **3. STRUCTURE OF COMPETITION**

- 3.1 If two or more clubs finish level on points at the end of a season the application of competition rule 2.2 will decide which team finishes above the other.
- 3.2 If a club is expelled or suspended, its record will be expunged, irrespective of how many games that club has played.
- 3.3 The Super League will operate a top 4 play-offs.
- 3.4 Only players that have played in at least one league fixture are eligible for the Play-Offs



## **WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE - COMPETITION RULES 2019**

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### **4. MEMBERSHIP**

- 4.1 Membership of the Women's Super League is open to all Professional Club Foundations who are capable of meeting any Annual Entry Criteria as specified by the RFL.
- 4.2 Applications from clubs must be submitted in writing to the Sustainable Clubs and Foundation manager annually. Membership shall be granted to a club for one season only and all clubs must reapply for membership each year.
- 4.3 Each Club will be required to ensure that the Volunteers listed below are appropriately qualified (where applicable) and registered on LeagueNet:
- Coaches
  - Club Welfare Officer
  - First Aider
- 4.4 The annual subscription for membership of the League shall be £50 per team.

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

- 5.1 The RFL 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.

### **6. PLAYER REGISTRATIONS**

- 6.1.1 All players should annually register to the Club using the RFL LeagueNet system. The League will circulate a link to the registration portal to the Clubs to commence the registration process.
- 6.1.2 Clubs will be allowed to register a maximum of 30 players at any given time.
- 6.1.3 A Super League team can add up to 5 "talent transfer" players into the squad. These will not be included within the limit of 30 players. For a talent transfer player to count, they cannot have any playing history on LeagueNet. Clubs will be responsible for ensuring they notify the RFL who their talent transfer players are.
- 6.2 **Transfers**
- 6.2.1 Clubs may register or transfer players from other clubs 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.
- 6.2.2 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.
- 6.2.3 The deadline date for transferring of players shall be the 31<sup>st</sup> August.



## **WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE - COMPETITION RULES 2019**

---

### **6.3 Dual Registration with Championship & Merit League Clubs**

- 6.3.1 Players who register to a Women's Super League Club in 2019 can also register with a Championship or Merit League club as per the following regulations: -
- 6.3.1.1 Any players who were registered to a Club in 2018, but have now signed with a Super League Club, can be dual registered back to their 2018 Club by the Competition Administrator.
- 6.3.1.2 New players who have not previously been registered with the RFL and have registered to a Super League Club, have the option to also register with a Championship or Merit League Club.
- 6.3.1.3 A maximum of five Super League players can play for a team in any Championship or Merit League match.
- 6.1.4 Players who are selected to play in the Under-19's Competition remain registered with their Community Club and permitted into the Under-19's. Any player who wishes to play in the Women's Super League Competition would require a transfer but could be permitted back to their Community Club

## **7 FIXTURES**

- 7.1 Any club wishing to rearrange a fixture must consult their opponents, agree a new date and complete a fixture amendment form. The completed fixture amendment form must be forwarded to the Competition Administrator for their approval. If clubs cannot agree a new date within 14 days of the original fixture postponement, then the Competition Administrator will issue a new date for the fixture. If the fixture is not played as instructed by the Competition Administrator the points will be awarded to the non-offending club.
- 7.2 Where programmed into the fixture programme, backlog dates should not be considered as a free weekend Teams should be prepared to be allocated fixtures on these days.
- 7.3 Postponements will not be considered because of injuries or any other matter not considered exceptional.
- 7.4 Any club desiring to arrange a friendly must seek permission from the Competition Administrator. No friendly fixtures shall be arranged on a League fixture date without prior approval of the Competition Administrator.

## **8 MATCH DAY OPERATIONS**

- 8.1 All games shall, unless there is mutual agreement between competing clubs to the contrary, be organised and staged on Sunday afternoons with a kick off time scheduled for 2.00pm. If fixtures need to be played mid-week then the Competition Administrator must be notified at least one week prior to the scheduled fixture.
- 8.2 To maintain the continuity of the playing programme the Competition Administrator shall be empowered, if necessary, to bring forward to an earlier date fixtures scheduled for later in the season.

## WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE - COMPETITION RULES 2019

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### 8.3 **Contacting Opponents**

- 8.3.1 In accordance with the Operational Rules it is the responsibility of the home Club, during the week preceding a game, to contact both its opponents and the relevant Match Officials regarding team colours and ground directions.
- 8.3.2 In the event there is a clash of colours the away team must wear an alternative strip.

### 8.4 **Team Sizes**

- 8.4.1 A maximum of 17 players may be named for each side taking part in a Super league fixture, play-off games and final.

### 8.5 **Medical Requirements**

- 8.5.1 It is the requirement of each Home Club to ensure that a First Aider is in attendance at each game. In the event that there is no first aider then the match official will not permit a game to take place.

### 8.6 **Post Match Arrangements**

- 8.6.1 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.
- 8.6.2 In the case of away clubs failing to fulfil a fixture the home club may also claim up to a maximum of £50 towards refreshment costs. Any club which will not be requiring refreshments should notify its opponents in advance of the game, otherwise the club will be liable to pay £50 compensation to the home club.

### 8.7 **Team Sheet**

- 8.7.1 Official team sheets must be completed correctly before the commencement of matches and shall be signed by a recognised official from each club and the Match Official.
- 8.7.2 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 Competition Administrator. Details of the player of the match from both the participating clubs must also be included. The failure of a club to complete and return team sheets correctly will incur a £10 administration fine.
- 8.7.3 It is the responsibility of the both clubs to ensure that the team sheet information is entered on the LeagueNet system within 48 hours following the completion of the game. Failure to do so will result in an £10 administration fine.

## **WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE - COMPETITION RULES 2019**

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### **8.8 Reporting Results**

8.8.1 The home club, in consultation with the Match Official and designated Administrator from the opposition, must agree the result immediately on completion of the game and enter the result onto LeagueNet. Failure to do so will result in a £10 administration fine.

### **8.9 Abandonment of Games**

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

### **8.10 Postponements**

8.10.1 In the event of the home club suspecting that its ground will not be fit for play owing to adverse weather conditions or other cause, the home club must immediately call a Match Official on the approved list recognised by the RFL to carry out a ground inspection. If the Match Official states the ground 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 Administrator. Any club failing to fulfil this instruction may be subject to disciplinary action.

8.10.2 All postponements must be notified to the Competition Administrator by 12.00 p.m. on Sunday and 5.00 p.m. midweek.

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

9.1 A WSL 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, subject to the Operational Rules, found guilty of misconduct and/or breach of these rules and/or breach of the Operational Rules and to order them to meet any costs incurred.

9.2 A written report from the 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 48 hours from the conclusion of the game.

9.3 Reports of brawling – defined as three or more players involved - should be sent by the Match Official, for receipt within 48 hours of a game's conclusion, via email to the Competition Administrator. Separate copies of the report must be lodged by the Match Official with the clubs concerned.

9.4 Any club which does not receive from the Match Official within 48 hours 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



## WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE - COMPETITION RULES 2019

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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 Unedited DVD evidence shall be an accepted method through which to defend or confirm 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 Sunday 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 University and College RL fixtures, and RFL representative games) provided that they were arranged prior to the player's offence may be counted towards her list of suspended games.
- 9.11 A suspended player is not permitted to play in any other game of Rugby League until any fines are paid and her suspension is served, and the completed Notification of Games Served Form has been completed and received and approved by the Competition Administrator. 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 and will not be able to play until such time as the fine is paid. In the event of a game having been won by a club fielding a player under suspension then the competition points gained shall be forfeited automatically. The RFL, 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.

## 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 have the right to appeal within 14 days of a decision made only if they have attended the disciplinary panel meeting or submitted a written defence. 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 Competition 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 WRL Disciplinary Panel 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.



## **WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE - COMPETITION RULES 2019**

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- 10.5 Adjudication by the Appeals Panel precludes the right of individual players or their clubs towards seeking a further representation.