1. **APPLICABLE OPERATIONAL RULES**

1.1 The **“North East Youth and Junior League” (NEYJL)** sits within tier five of the RFL competition structure. All teams participating in the **NEYJL** are bound by the RFL Operational Rules for Tiers Four, Five and Six (Operational Rules).

1.2 In relation to Covid-19 regulations the Operational Rules should be read in conjunction with relevant Covid Protocols, , which will take precedence. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the possibility of their being an effect on the season the RFL reserves the right to amend these Competition Rules to reflect the ever-changing position. Any such changes will be communicated with Clubs.

1. **TABLES AND FIXTURES**

2.1 NEMB has determined that all matches at U12 and U14 shall be friendlies for the 2021 season.

2.2 At U12 and U14 every player named on the team sheet **must** play for a total time equalling a minimum of a half of the match (20 minutes at U12, and 25 minutes at U14). Clubs are permitted to agree an alteration to the length of a match in order to accomplish this but must consult with their MO before the day of the match. No player may play for more than the total determined by their age group (40 minutes at U12, 50 minutes at U14)

2.3 At U12 and Y14 should a team be unable to play, then the team without a fixture is encouraged to contact another fixture in order to secure playing time. Rule 2.2 above will apply, and the MO should be informed as soon as possible about this change.

2.4 At U16, the League competition tables shall be compiled by the RFL, the positions in which shall be determined by the number of completion points gained with points being awarded as follows: two points for each Match won; and one point for each Match drawn.

2.5 At U16 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 the result of their ‘head to head’ results so that the Club having the better results is placed above the Club with the worse results. 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 NERL shall direct and those Clubs concerned shall be entitled to witness the toss.

2.6 The notional scores in forfeited games shall be 24-0 with no points deducted.The League and Clubs will work to ensure, where possible games are played. 24-0 will only be used as a last resort.

1. **STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION**
   1. The RFL, in conjunction with the Management Group, will determine the structure of the competition including its format and size, any play-off structure and matters relating to relegation.
   2. The RFL reserves the right to amend the competition structure, Fixture List and play off formats should there be an impact from the Covid 19 pandemic.

3.3 There will be no promotion and relegation in season 2021

3.4 At U16 if two or more clubs finish level on points at the end of a season the application of competition rule 2.5 will decide which team finishes above the other.

3.5 At U16 if a club withdraws from the League having failed to complete 50% of its scheduled games, the club’s record shall be expunged. For the remaining scheduled games, the points will be awarded to the opponents in line with competition rule 2.6.

3.6 The play-off format for each league will be determined each season by the Management Group.

3.7 Only players who have played 2 or more League fixtures for their respective team are eligible to participate in any play-off stages of the competition.

3.8 Teams who have forfeited two or more games through the season shall not be eligible to participate in any play-off stages of the competition. In this event, the next qualifying team will be entered into any play-off stages.

4. **MEMBERSHIP**

4.1 Membership of the **NEYJL** is open to all clubs playing rugby league within the North East Region and surrounding areas who are capable of meeting any Annual Entry Criteria as specified by the Management Group.

4.2Applications from new clubs must be submitted in writing to the **Alan Smith** by the **date set by NEMG each year.** Membership shall be granted to a club for one season only and all clubs must reapply for membership each year.

4.3 The annual subscription for membership of the league shall be £30 per first team in an age group and free for any additional teams from the same club in the same age group.

4.4 Subscription for membership of the League shall be reviewed annually and paid by **30th** **April** each season. Any team not having paid its annual subscription by **30th April** will not be allocated competitive fixtures for the reminder of the season until such fees are paid.

4.5 Each Club will be required to ensure that the Volunteers listed below are appropriately qualified (where applicable) and registered on GameDay:

* Coaches
* Club Welfare Officer
* Club COVID Officer
* First Aider
* Game Day Manager
* Club Chairman
* Club Secretary

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

5.1 The **NEYJL** Management Group shall determine the commencement date of its competition and the date upon which it shall cease, these dates will fit between the 1st March and 30th November in any year.

6. **PLAYER REGISTRATIONS**

6.1 All players shall annually register to the Club using the RFL GameDay system. The League will circulate a link to the registration portal to the Clubs to commence the registration process. There is no restriction on the maximum number of players allowed to register per team in the **NEYJL.** During this process a Player must become an Our League Active Member.

6.1.2 A Club is permitted and encouraged to enter more than one team in a league. Should a team elect to do so, then the Management Board may ask that players are allocated to a team.

6.1.3 The RFL may introduce, from time to time, new registration processes.

6.2 **Transfers**

6.2.1 Youth and Junior Teams may register, by transfer, a total of three Players only per Season. The Management Group may relax this rule at their discretion, as deemed appropriate to meet the needs of the Competition. For full transfer regulations see section C2.9 and C2.11 of the Operational Rules.

6.2.2 Clubs may register or transfer players from other Clubs using GameDay. It is the responsibility of the Club the player wishes to join to initiate the transfer. The player (or parents of the player if U18) has final sign off of the transfer. The process must be completed in full, including player sign off, before a player plays. **Alan Smith** will communicate further details on the process.

6.2.3 The deadline date for transferring of players shall be the **1st July** in 2022.

6.2.4 All players must fulfil all financial obligations to their current club before any transfer to another club will be permitted. This also applies to a player wishing to sign for a different club in future seasons. In order to facilitate this, there will be a period of 72 hours between receipt of request and approval or refusal.

**7 FIXTURES**

7.1 Any club wishing to postpone or rearrange a league fixture or other organised game shall consult their opponents, agree a new date and complete the Fixture Amendment Form not later than 9pm on Tuesday preceding the fixture. (This is done electronically). If it fails to do so, then the club shall be fined **£10** and forfeit the 2 points to the opposing team with a score of 24-0 against. The completed fixture amendment form must be forwarded to the **Fixture Organiser Alan Smith** for its approval. If clubs cannot agree a new date within 14 days of the original postponement, then **Alan Smith** will issue a new date for the fixture. If the fixture is not played as instructed by **Alan Smith,** the points will be awarded to the non-offending club and the offending club will be fined **£10**.

7.2 All games must be played as per the fixture list, or the points for such games forfeited, unless an alternative date mutually agreeable by both teams and **Alan Smith** can be sought.

7.3 Where programmed into the fixture programme, backlog dates should not be considered as a free weekend and the team should be prepared to be allocated fixtures on these days.

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

7.5 Any club desiring to arrange a friendly must seek permission from **Alan Smith**. No friendly fixtures shall be arranged on a League fixture date without prior approval of **Alan Smith**

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7.6 Clubs must accept fixtures given at seven days’ notice by **Alan Smith**.

7.7 If a club fails to fulfil a fixture, the Club Secretary must inform **Alan Smith** that they are conceding the points.

7.8 Any club failing to play a fixture on a scheduled date will be made to play the reverse fixture, if it has not already been played or forfeited, on their opponents’ ground.Clubs failing to fulfil fixtures will be fined **£15**.

7.9 Any fixture postponed after 1pm the day prior to an afternoon kick off or after 9pm, the day prior to an evening kick off will be classed as a late postponement and the offending club may be subject to a fine. When postponing fixtures please refer to point 7.1 to agree a new date for the fixture.

7.10 Any club which fails to notify their opponents of its inability to raise a team 2 hours before the scheduled kick-off, shall also be liable to pay any expenses, up to a maximum of **£40,** which their opponents may incur, including kit washing, or medical costs such as strapping.

7.11 In the case of a home club failing to fulfil a fixture, a visiting club that has travelled, may claim up to a maximum of **£50** towards transport costs.

7.12 Any club with more than one team at home, in any competition, all kick off timings must be confirmed with the opposition and the Match Officials by the preceding Thursday

**8 MATCH DAY OPERATIONS**

8.1 All games shall be organised and staged on **Saturday or Sunday** mornings with a kick-off time scheduled no earlier than **10.00a.m.** If fixtures need to be played mid-week then **Jordan Robinson** must be notified at least one week prior to the scheduled fixture.

8.2 To maintain the continuity of the playing programme **Alan Smith** shall be empowered, if necessary, to bring forward to an earlier date fixtures scheduled for later in the season.

8.3 **Contacting Opponents and Kit Obligations**

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.

8.3.1 In the event there is a clash of colours the **home** team must wear an alternative strip.

8.4 **Team Sizes and Loaning of Players**

8.4.1 There will be no maximum number of players taking part in a fixture. There will be separate limits for cup fixtures, play-off games and finals.

8.4.2 Clubs are not compelled to ‘loan’ players. It is their discretion whether they do so or not.

8.4.3 ‘Loaned’ players are to be clearly identified on the Official Team Sheet - as “**LOAN”**

8.4.5 Whether or not ‘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.

8.5 **Technical Areas**

All non-playing personnel and interchanges must remain in the designated technical area throughout the Match. They are not permitted to station themselves around the field, other than when managing a player, who has been removed from play, or when time management principles have been implemented (other than tracking physios) and are subject at all times to the control of the Match Officials.

8.6 **Medical Requirements**

8.6.1 It is the requirement of each Home Club to ensure that a qualified First Aider is in attendance at each game. The first aider should make themselves known to the Match Official before the start of any Match and shall remain for a minimum of 15 minutes after the end of the Game and shall speak directly with a designated Official from both Clubs, if necessary, to ensure that the correct reporting paperwork is completed. In the event that there is no first aider then the match official will not permit a game to take place.

8.6.2 First aiders should be listed on the team sheet and are required to register on the GameDay system as a volunteer.

8.6.3 In the event a player sustains an injury to the head the match official will stop the game and ask for the first aider to attend to them.  If the first aider suspects concussion the player should be removed from the field of play. If the player refuses to follow the first aider’s advice, then the match officials can hold up play until the player follows the instruction of the first aider.  Advice for managing concussion can be found here. <https://www.rugby-league.com/the_rfl/concussion>

8.7 **Reporting Injuries and Concussion**

8.7.1 In the event there is a serious injury or concussion at a Match this must be reported using the GameDay system. Reports are added in the post-game section which is the same area as where results are added. It is imperative that any head injuries are reported on the system as this information has to be provided to the insurers8.6

8.8 **Post Match Arrangements**

8.8.1 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.

8.8.2 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.

8.9 **Team Sheet and Reporting Results**

8.9.1 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. GameDay is to be used to complete team-sheets.

8.9.2 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 **Alan Smith**. Details of the man 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 mandatory fine of **£5.00**

8.9.3 It is the responsibility of the both clubs to ensure that the team sheet information is entered on the GameDay system within 24 hours following the completion of the game. This includes the players who scored points. Failure to do so will result in an **£5** administration fine.

8.9.4 Every team playing in the League must have a named Game Day Manager to accompany them and be named on the team sheet. Failure to do so, will result in a **£5** fine.

8.10 **Abandonment of Games**

8.10.1If a game is abandoned with more than three-quarters of the playing time elapsed, the result shall stand unless otherwise determined by the **NEYJL** Management Group. If less than three-quarters of the playing time has elapsed the **NEYJL** Management Group, at its sole discretion, may order a game to be re-played.

8.11 **Postponements**

8.11.1 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 **NERL** 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 Alan Smith. Any club failing to fulfil this instruction may be subject to disciplinary action.

8.11.2 Should the away team’s pitch be playable, and it be feasible to play, then the venue can be changed after consultation with the opposition, Match Official and Alan Smith

8.11.3 All postponements must be notified to the Competition Officer by no later than **two hours** before kick-off.

**9 DISCIPLINE, SUSPENSIONS AND FINES**

9.1 A **NEYJL** 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 of a Match Official on the misconduct of any club, player or official must be sent via email to **Alan Smith** with a copy to the offending club for receipt inside 48 hours from the conclusion of the game.

9.3 NEMG will not tolerate abuse of Match Officials. Anyone found to have abused a Match Official (whether player, coach or spectator) may be required to attend an ‘Awareness Course’ in addition to any other sanction which is applied.

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

9.5 Any club which does not receive from the Match Official within 48 hours a report outlining a dismissal or brawl having occurred should contact **Alan Smith** immediately. The failure of a club to receive a written report will not prevent action being dealt by the relevant discipline committee.

9.6 A reported club, player, official or any other person may, to defend an allegation of misconduct, send a letter for receiptby **Alan Smith** within five working 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 and/or submit written mitigation, to the hearing, provided that they notify the Competition Officer within five days of the alleged offence and send with it a deposit of £20.00 which must be paid to the RFL by bank transfer The deposit shall be refunded at the hearing, provided that the appellant or their designated representative attends in person and they are found not guilty..

9.7 Unedited/video evidence **shall not** be an accepted method through which to defend or confirm the alleged actions that have been reported to the committee by a Match Official.

9.8 Club secretaries or their deputies, pursuant to the hearing having not received a verdict after 24 hours should contact **Alan Smith** regarding the result.

9.9 Should a case of alleged assault by a player, club official or spectator be lodged it will be reported to **Alan Smith** 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.

9.10A 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.

9.11 All organised competition games, (including Student RL fixtures, and RFL representative games) provided that they were arranged prior to the player’s offence may be counted towards his list of suspended games.

9.12 A suspended player is not permitted to play in any other game of Rugby League until any fines are paid and his suspension is served and the completed Notification Of Games Served Form has been completed and received and approved by **Alan Smith**. Any player or club violating this rule will be fined not less than £50 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 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.

9.13 All fines, must be settled within 28 days and must be forwarded as instructed on the notification of outcome sheet**.** 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 NERL 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 Competition Officer.

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 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.