

**Staffordshire RU under 16’s League**

**Aim**

The overriding aim of the league is to ensure that it is inclusive and all players who turn up on a match day have the opportunity to play at least half a game of rugby in an enjoyable manner.

Staffordshire Rugby Union, would like all Clubs playing in a SRU Competition in the 2025/26 Season, to apply the principle of the RFU Kids First, which is;

**Kids First puts children first.**

* **Put children at the heart of everything we do.**
* **Encourage fun on the pitch through equal opportunity and realistic expectations of children.**
* **Build the skills of our adults to provide a safe, healthy, respectful and enjoyable environment for children.**
* **Develop children’s confidence and character as players and as people, challenging any behaviour that conflicts with this.**
* **Champion rugby’s Core Vales inspiring a lifelong bond between children, adults and sport.**

**Objectives**

1. To keep all players playing the game of rugby so that they make the transition to Colts and Senior Rugby.

2. The Code of Practice is at the forefront of all coaches minds with how the games are played.

[www.englandrugby.com/participation/coaching/age-grade-rugby/codes-of-practice](http://www.englandrugby.com/participation/coaching/age-grade-rugby/codes-of-practice)

**League Rules**
1. In the season 2025-2026 there are 15 teams who wish to play in the Staffordshire under 16 league. Therefore we will have to divide it into two divisions. The divisions have been selected by the Competition organisers seeding the teams in Green Division which will have 8 teams and White Division which will have 7 teams.

2. Each Club in the league will play each other once on the Club competition days as written down on the Staffordshire 2025-2026 Age Grade Competition Playing Calendar.

3. Each Club would have at least three games at home and three away unless Rule 10 comes into play. The home club will provide the referee, ideally they will be a Society Referee if possible.

If possible, it is always best to have a neutral referee, who is a member of the Staffordshire Rugby Union Society of Referees (SRUSR). To ensure the game can be safely and effectively managed, clubs are advised to ensure that, if in-house referees are appointed, they are members of the SRUSR but should also ensure they are not a coach of the team or parent of a player in the team.

In the event that an in-house referee who is a member of the SRUSR is not available, then you have the choice of the opposition being asked if they have a referee who could do the game, or each team provides a referee for half of the game. The home referee does the first half, the away referee does the second half.

4. The half game rule will be mandatory.

Half Game Rule FAQs, available at:

[www.englandrugby.com/participation/coaching/age-grade-rugby/half-game](http://www.englandrugby.com/participation/coaching/age-grade-rugby/half-game)

5. There will be no maximum squad size but all players who turn up on the day should take part in the game as per Rule 4 unless a player does not want to play. (This will obviously mean that only 30 players can play at the most, if clubs have more than 30 players it is suggested that they organise another game against another team.)

6. The 50-point differential rule will be mandatory and if this means that players have not played a half then both sides will be mixed up (I suggest that the odd numbers swap sides). This again is mandatory.

7. A new shortened friendly game will take place lasting at least the number of minutes remaining in the initial game. (This will ensure that everybody who has attended on the day plays at least a half game of rugby.)

8. When league positions are finalised the top four in each league will have a play off.

9. If there are teams equal on points, their league position will be decided by who won their game in the league. If the game was drawn then points difference will decide.

10. If the venue for a game is unfit to play, in the first instance the game will be switched to the opposition’s ground. If both pitches are unfit, then the game will be deemed a 0-0 draw and each side will be given 2 points.

**11 . Determination of a Winner** - in any knockout phase of a Staffordshire Age Grade competition including the U16’s the team that advances to the next stage of the competition will be on the basis of:

* Points Scored
* Tries Scored
* Conversions Scored

If the above does not clearly identify the team to progress to the next round, the team that scored the first try should progress unless it is a final, then the trophy is shared.

NB/ Staffordshire Competitions Committee is of the opinion that, at Colts level, a kicking competition puts unreasonable pressure on young players; and this has been adopted by the Mini and Youth Committee

**12. Front row and Front row replacements:**

If a side turns up and is unable to field a team with a trained front row then: The game will be played with uncontested scrums from the start but the side without a front row at the start of the game will automatically forfeit the match.

If the game starts with contested scrums but has to go to uncontested during the match, then the result will stand.

13. **Match Dates cannot be changed** – if a Club cannot field a full team, it is important to ensure the players have a game, therefore you must negotiate with the opposition to play with reduced numbers down to 10 a side. The non defaulting side will be given the 4 points whatever the result.

14. Winners will be given 4 points.

15. In any dispute the League organiser’s decision is final.

**Mandatory Rule**

All team coaches should have signed up to the RFU Code of Practice – see the last page of the Codes of Practice: [www.englandrugby.com/participation/coaching/age-grade-rugby/codes-of-practice](http://www.englandrugby.com/participation/coaching/age-grade-rugby/codes-of-practice)

**Sanction for infringement of Mandatory Rules**
If the rules are not followed the offending club/s will face a 4-point deduction and possible expulsion from the Competition if repeated.

**Dates of the League**.

R1 - 21/09/2025

R2 - 28/09/2025

R3 - 19/10/2025

R4 - 16/11/2025

R5 - 07/12/2025

R6 - 11/01/2026

R7 - 01/02/2026

**Play off dates**

Semi Finals 15/02/2026 League Positions 1st v 4th

 2nd v 3rd

Final 19/04/2026

The teams in the two leagues will be as below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Green Division**1. Burton2. Lichfield3. Newcastle4. Stafford5. Telford6. Tamworth7. Trentham8. Wolverhampton | **White Division**1. Burntwood2. Eccleshall3. Leek4. Longton5. Stoke6. Uttoxeter7. Walsall |

Results must be emailed to the League Organiser by both sides by 6pm on Sunday. If you have an IT problem, then text the League Organiser the score.

Online forms will be sent out before the season. These forms will need to be filled in showing the time players go on and off the pitch. If a player is injured or safety becomes an issue (Front Row Safety) this needs to be shown if they can’t play a half game. These will need to be emailed to the league organiser by 6pm on Monday.

If either of these are late a 2-point deduction will be made.

Your League Organiser‘s contact details:

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| David Lycett | 07803 921013 | david@robust-uk.com;  |

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| **U16 Green Division Fixtures****21.09.2025**Burton v WolverhamptonTrentham v TamworthNewcastle v TelfordStafford v Lichfield**28.09.2025**Tamworth v WolverhamptonTelford v BurtonLichfield v TrenthamStafford v Newcastle**19.10.2025**Wolverhampton v TelfordTamworth v LichfieldBurton v StaffordTrentham v Newcastle**16.11.2025**Lichfield v WolverhamptonTelford v StaffordNewcastle v TamworthTrentham v Burton**07.12.2025**Wolverhampton v StaffordLichfield v NewcastleTelford v TrenthamBurton v Tamworth**11.01.2026**Newcastle v WolverhamptonTrentham v StaffordBurton v LichfieldTamworth v Telford**01.02.2026**Wolverhampton v TrenthamNewcastle v BurtonStafford v TamworthTelford v Lichfield P/O SF 15.02.2026P/O Final 19.04.2026 | **U16 White Division Fixtures****21.09.2025**Burntwood v Eccleshall Stoke v Longton Leek v Uttoxeter **28.09.2025**Eccleshall v Stoke Uttoxeter v WalsallLongton v Leek**19.10.2025**Leek v EccleshallStoke v Burntwood Walsall v Longton **16.11.2025**Eccleshall v Longton Stoke v Walsall Burntwood v Uttoxeter**07.12.2025**Uttoxeter v StokeWalsall v Leek Longton v Burntwood **11.01.2026**Eccleshall v WalsallLongton v Uttoxeter Burntwood v Leek**01.02.2026**Uttoxeter v Eccleshall Leek v Stoke Walsall v BurntwoodP/O SF 15.02.2026P/O Final 19.04.2026 |

Apparerntly Uttoxeter have not got an U16 team so when you are down to play Uttoxeter it will now be Bye.