

**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.

**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.

<https://www.englandrugby.com/participation/coaching/age-grade-rugby/codes-of-practice>

3. Rugby’s Core Values are followed by Players, Coaches and Spectators

 They are as follows Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline & Sportsmanship
**League Rules**
1. In the season 2021-2022 there are 13 teams who wish to play in the Staffordshire under 16 leagues. Therefore, we will have to divide it into two divisions. The divisions will be selected by the organiser seeding the teams. Division A will have 6 teams and Division B 7 teams.

2. Each Club in the league will play each other once on the Club competition days as written down on the Staffordshire 2021-22 Age Grade Competition Playing Calendar. These are listed below.

3. Each Club would have at least two games at home and at least two games away unless Rule 10 comes into play. The home club will try to organise a **neutral** referee through their local referee society. If this is not possible then a referee from each side should referee half of the game.

4. The half game rule will be mandatory.

5. There will be no maximum squad size but all players who turn up on the day will take part in the game as per Rule 4. (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 not points difference.

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. Winners will be given 4 points

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

**Advisory Rule**

All team coaches should have signed up to the RFU Code of Practice

<http://www.englandrugby.com/my-rugby/players/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.

**Dates of the League**.

These are listed on the fixtures.

**Play off dates**

Semi Finals 20.02.2022 League Positions 1st v 4th

 2nd v 3rd

Final 13.03.2022 .

The teams in the two leagues will be as below:

**Division A organised by Robin Websdale**

1. Stoke on Trent
2. Lichfield
3. Walsall
4. Wolverhampton
5. Trentham
6. Burntwood
7. Tamworth

**Division B organised by Iain Eadie**

1. Uttoxeter
2. Newcastle
3. Longton
4. Willenhall
5. Burton
6. Stafford

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. Results can also be put straight

Online forms are one of the attachments sent out with this document. 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.

**Division A**

**Game 1 19.09.21**

Lichfield v Wolverhampton

Stoke on Trent v Walsall

Tamworth v Trentham

**2nd Game 26.09.21**

Burntwood v Lichfield

Wolverhampton v Stoke on Trent

Walsall v Tamworth

**3rd Game 17.10.21**

Burntwood v Stoke on Trent

Tamworth v Wolverhampton

Trentham v Walsall

**4th Game 21.11.21**

Burntwood v Tamworth

Lichfield v Stoke on Trent

Trentham v Wolverhampton

**5th Game 12.12.21**

Trentham v Burntwood

Lichfield v Tamworth

Walsall v Wolverhampton

**6th Game 16.01.22**

Walsall v Burntwood

Lichfield v Trentham

Stoke on Trent v Tamworth

**7th Game 06.02.22**

Wolverhampton v Burntwood

Walsall v Lichfield

Stoke on Trent v Trentham

**Division B**

**1st Game 19.09.21**

Newcastle v Stafford

Uttoxeter v Willenhall

Burton v Longton

**2nd Game 26.09.21**

Newcastle v Uttoxeter

Willenhall v Burton

Longton v Stafford

**3rd Game 17.10.21**

Burton v Newcastle

Stafford v Uttoxeter

Longton v Willenhall

**4th Game 21.11.21**

Newcastle v Longton

Uttoxeter v Burton

Willenhall v Stafford

**5th Game 06.02.22**

Willenhall v Newcastle

Uttoxeter v Longton

Stafford v Burton