

**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.

[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 2023-2024 there are 11 teams who wish to play in the Staffordshire under 16 league. Therefore we will have to divide it into two divisions. The divisions will be selected by the organiser seeding the teams the A Division will have 6 teams and the B Division 5 teams.

2. Each Club in the league will play each other once on the Club competition days as written down on the Staffordshire 2023-2024 Age Grade Competition Playing Calendar.

3. Each Club would have at least two games at home and two away unless Rule 10 comes into play. The home club will provide the referee.

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 will take part in the game. (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 – 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.

**Dates of the League**.

R1 - 17.09.23

R2 - 24.09.23

R3 - 01.10.23

R4 - 15.10.23

R5 - 19.11.23

**Play off dates**

Semi Finals 11.02.24 League Positions 1st v 4th

 2nd v 3rd

Final 25.02.24

The teams in the two leagues will be as below:

**Division A**

1. Eccleshall/Longton
2. Leek
3. Lichfield
4. Newcastle
5. Telford
6. Walsall

**Division B**

1. Burton
2. Stafford
3. Stoke
4. Willenhall
5. Wolverhampton

Results must be emailed to the League Organiser (See below) 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;  |

**Division A Fixtures**

**17.09.2023**

Eccleshall/Longton v Leek

Lichfield v Newcastle

Telford v Walsall

**24.09.2023**

Leek v Lichfield

Newcastle v Telford

Walsall v Eccleshall/Longton

**01.10.2023**

Eccleshall/Longton v Telford

Leek v Newcastle

Lichfield v Walsall

**15.10.2023**

Newcastle v Walsall

Telford v Leek

Lichfield v Eccleshall/Longton

**19.11.2023**

Newcastle v Eccleshall/Longton

Telford v Lichfield

Walsall v Leek

**Division B Fixtures**

**17.09.2023**

Burton v Stafford

Stoke v Bye

Willenhall v Wolverhampton

**24.09.2023**

Stafford v Stoke

Bye v Willenhall

Wolverhampton v Burton

**01.10.2023**

Stoke v Wolverhampton

Stafford v Bye

Burton v Willenhall

**15.10.2023**

Bye v Wolverhampton

Stafford v Willenhall

Stoke v Burton

**19.11.2023**

Wolverhampton v Stafford

Bye v Burton

Willenhall v Stoke