

Staffordshire Rugby Union

Staffordshire Leagues - Regulations 2022 - 2023

1. Any club can enter one or more team/s which will be placed in the appropriate league/merit table. Two or more teams from the same club can compete in the same Merit Table.

The leagues and merits have been built on a home and away fixture basis

A player joining a new club can represent that club immediately. Club referees will be used where no Society referee is available. Staffordshire RFU will provide trophies for the 2nd team winners.

2. a) Points awarded –

- HOME - Win 4 points, Draw 2 points, 1 point awarded for a defeat.
- AWAY – Win 6 points, draw 3 points, 2 points awarded for a defeat.

b) A BONUS POINT for merit table matches will be awarded for each result submitted to the league secretary by 6:00pm on the day following the game.

3. Match results must be supplied by the **HOME team** (in the event of a draw both teams) to the League/Merit table secretary by 6:00pm on the following day (usually the Sunday).

Please note the preferred method is by email.

a) If no result received by Wednesday following the match the result to be entered as VOID

4. a) Postponed games are to be re-arranged at the earliest opportunity. Disputes will be resolved by the merit/league secretary. (Cancelled/postponed games should be notified to the league secretary at the time of cancellation)

League/merit fixtures will take preference over any friendly fixtures.

Fixtures Secretaries should make every effort to rearrange postponed games, Postponed games where no attempt has been made to rearrange to be recorded as void with 0 (Zero) points to each team.

Where no suitable date can be arranged it may, at the discretion of the league secretary, be recorded as void with 1 point to each team.

Email evidence should be available to show attempts to rearrange have been made between the two clubs.

b) **Cancelled games:**

AWAY team cry-off: – Home team to notify league secretary. Recorded as Walk Over - 4 points to HOME team

HOME team cry-off: AWAY team to notify league secretary. Will be recorded as a walk over with 4 points to the away team, 0 points to the Home team cancelling the game.

c) Fixtures secretaries to contact opponents prior to the Thursday prior to the game to confirm or otherwise. This is to allow clubs sufficient time if necessary to arrange alternate fixtures from the fixtures pool. Home club also to notify referee of any cancelled or postponed game at earliest opportunity.

5. Clubs must not cry off any fixture (including friendlies) for a higher team and then fulfil a fixture for a lower team. The reverse principle will apply, i.e. if a cry off is unavoidable, it should always be the lowest side. Failure to observe this regulation without a valid reason will lead to the non-offending team being awarded four points and a penalty being imposed on the offending club. The maximum penalty would be the loss of all points for ALL teams in the league/merit tables. Adverse weather conditions, leading to no playable pitch being available, would normally be the only valid reason for postponing a fixture. If the away side has a playable pitch available, the venue should be switched, even if this is the second of two scheduled fixtures. Other exceptional circumstances MUST be submitted to the league/merit table secretary who may refer the case to the competitions committee.

6. An open number of replacements can be agreed by both captains and referee before the commencement of the game. If agreement cannot be reached, a maximum of 5 NOMINATED replacements will apply, regardless of the number of players starting the game.

7. Rolling Subs to be allowed throughout with an unlimited number of interchanges.

8. Uncontested Scrums:

a. Before a game commences, if there is a shortage of front row players, the game starts with uncontested scrums. Should a team unable to field a front row win the match they will receive 2 POINTS MAXIMUM. Should the team with a full front row win they will be awarded four points. The losing side will receive ONE point.

b. If due to injury a game goes into uncontested scrums after the start, normal rules apply, winners take FOUR points, losers take ONE point.

c. A draw in a game with uncontested scrums from the start: TWO points for the side starting with a full front row, ONE point for the side unable to provide a full starting front row.

d. All games involved in uncontested scrums MUST be reported to the league/merit table secretary along with the result.

9. Games will start with a minimum of twelve players (2nd team leagues) or nine (merit tables) per side. There will be no more than a ONE man advantage to either team at the start of the game. The captains must agree an exchange of players before the game begins in order to achieve this.

Should there be a failure to agree, then the team responsible for such failure to agree shall forfeit the game and receive 0 points. The non offending team (normally the team with fewer players) will be awarded 4 points.

A minimum of 6 players must be supplied by every team and a team supplying fewer than 9 of their own players will receive only 2 points in the event of a victory. A team with fewer than six players at the scheduled kick off time will forfeit the match.

11. Where a Club does not fulfil its AWAY fixture in the first part of the season, then it must forego its HOME fixture and travel to play the opposition AWAY

12. At the end of the season, if two or more teams have the same number of league points, positions will be decided in accordance with RFU regulations, i.e. number of wins, followed by match points difference. If this still does not establish final positions, further RFU regulations will be followed.

13. League/Merit Table Secretaries have full authority to resolve any disputes or to refer issues to the SRU competitions committee where appropriate.

14. All results and tables will be posted on the league website. Clubs should take their own copies from the website for publication on notice boards, etc. Remember - PUBLICITY creates interest for all of us. Website address: www.staffsrfu.com

Addendum.

It is not our intention to be too regulatory but it is important that we uphold the rules strictly, in order for the leagues and merit tables to run smoothly and without controversy.

It is essential that RESULTS are received on time, the awarding of a bonus point for prompt notice of result by the HOME team is to encourage this as it provides a reward for each competing team and an equal opportunity over the season for additional points.

John Atkin: on behalf of Staffordshire Competitions Committee. – June 2021