

**Warwickshire Colts Rugby Football Union**  
**Warwickshire Under 18's Colts League**  
**Competition Rules**

**2017– 2018 season**

1. The Competition.
  - Shall be organised by the Warwickshire Colts Rugby Football Union Committee (Colts Committee) who will appoint a League Secretary to administer the competition.
  - The competition shall be open to all teams within the Warwickshire Rugby Football Union Constituent Body and guest clubs from neighbouring counties who field an U18 team. Players should be U18 before midnight on the 31st August/1st September at the start of the current season.
  
2. All clubs competing in the competition shall be paid up members of the Warwickshire Colts Rugby Football Union and have paid their subscription to the Colts Committee Treasurer
  
3. Each club entering the competition shall appoint a **single** contact with whom the League Secretary in respect of all matters relating to the Competition.
  
4. The Warwickshire Society of Referees will communicate only with the person nominated by the senior club. (Usually the fixtures secretary)
  
5. Changes to the Competition rules will be published by the League Secretary before the beginning of each season and will be binding on all clubs who enter the competition.
  
6. Players Eligibility
  - Players should be registered players (not just club members) of the club they are representing. The unique RFU registration number of each player shall be recorded on the match card.
  - Clubs are to provide a list of players and their registration numbers prior to the start of the season.

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- A club playing in the league may play or select as a replacement not more than two players who do not have effective registration provided that registration forms have been completed and the details are entered onto GMS (or updated equivalent) within 7 days of the game.
- Any team may name up to 7 replacements. (match day squad of 22 players)
- If an over age player is found to have participated in a League game then that club may at the discretion of the Colts Committee have TEN league points deducted.

7. Front Row Players

- If a team are unable to field a full front row at the start of a game, then the game shall take place in the normal manner, except that the offending team shall play with a maximum of 14 players (one player less if the game is played with less than 15 a side) and scrummages shall be uncontested. And contain 8 players per side.
- If at a later time, a suitable player arrives and the team are able to field a front row, then that player may join the game and scrummages become contested.
- Games should not be delayed to wait for a player to arrive.
- If during the game a front row player leaves the field, he shall not be replaced if the team are unable to provide an alternative front row player. The team will play with one player less and scrummages will become uncontested, until the player returns or an alternative front row player is found. The scrumage shall still consist of 8 players per side.
- If the Colts officers suspect that failing to provide suitable front players is a tactical decision then that team shall be liable to have up to THREE league points deducted for each game played in such a manner.

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8. Match cards-
- Both clubs are required to complete their respective Match Result Card duly signed by the match referee and sent to the league secretary by midday Monday following the game. This may be scanned in and sent as an e-mail attachment.
  - The fully completed match card (less the score) shall be handed to the referee before the game commences. No card – no game!!
  - Warwickshire Referees have been asked to strictly enforce this rule.
  - Both clubs are required to complete their respective Match Result Card duly signed by the match referee and counter signed by an opposition official, and sent to the league secretary by midday Monday following the game. This may be scanned in and sent as an e-mail attachment.
9. Clubs wishing to attract players already registered with a club competing in the competition whilst the season is in force must in the first instance inform the player's home club of the intention to approach him. If the nominated player agrees to join the approaching club, all outstanding monies and dues should be paid to his existing club prior to his transfer. The player must be transferred and re-registered on GMS. (or updated equivalent)
10. Games will be played under the relevant laws as amended where necessary by the Rugby Football Union. The law variations for the U19 age group can be found in the RFU handbook which is issued annually by the RFU.
11. Games will be played on a league basis the structure of which will be determined by the Colts Committee. And confirmed prior to the start of the season.

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12. All matches must be played on or before the scheduled date (if both teams agree to an earlier date). Games will normally kick off at 2-15 / 3-00pm on Saturday afternoons. Friday evening games KO times should be mutually agreed by both clubs.
13. If a team fails to fulfil a fixture then they shall be deemed to have lost the game by 50 points to nil and a deduction of 1 league point will be applied. The 50 point loss will be applied to the league table. The offending team shall not be awarded a participation point.
14. The non-offending team shall be awarded a 0-0 win and awarded 3 league points to be applied to the league table.
15. If a game is postponed due to ground conditions then it will be rescheduled to the next available weekend and the provisions above will apply.
16. Fixtures will not be arranged on the same weekend as the Colts National Cup/Plate dates, or U17's Inter District dates as per the Youth Structured Season. (as far is reasonably practicable)
17. League Secretary to be notified of all re-arranged dates at least 14 days in advance of the re-arranged date in order that WSOR can appoint match officials.
18. **Both teams are to text or e-mail the result** to the league secretary by 1800hrs on the Saturday following the weekend fixture. For mid-week fixtures the result should be e-mailed or texted to the league secretary within 24 hours of the game finishing. The league secretary is unable to accept telephone calls for the notification of results, as if there is a disagreement over the scores he will have no written record of the score given by each team.
19. If a match is abandoned because of weather conditions at any time in the second half then the score at the moment of abandonment

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shall stand and be deemed the final score in the match. The referee's decision as to the necessity for abandonment shall be final.

20. In the event of a game being abandoned during the first or at half time, then the match will be rescheduled to the next available weekend. Rule 14 will still apply.

21. The position of a club in the league shall be established by awarding, in accordance with RFU guidelines, three points for a win two points for a draw and one point for participating in the game. In cases of teams having the same number of league points, positions shall be determined on the basis of matches won, then match points difference. A club with a larger difference between match points for and match points against shall be placed higher in the league than a club with a smaller difference between match points for and against. Should a club have the same number of points and the same points difference, the club having more points for shall be placed higher than a club having lesser points for.

22. Throughout the tournament it will be the responsibility of the home team to ensure:

- Confirmation of Referee where appointed by WSOR. Or other Referees Society
- Payment of referee charges to the WSOR. Or other Referees Society.
- Confirmation of visiting team by 9-00pm of the Thursday preceding the game.
- Condition of the pitch including pitch markings, technical areas, post protectors and flags etc.
- Roping off the pitch or providing a suitable barrier.
- NO ropes/barrier NO Game
- Change of colours in the event that both teams are similar.
- Notification to the League Secretary and Warwickshire Society of Referees (or other approved Society) any change to the arrangements.
- Both clubs are responsible the good conduct of coaches, players, spectators and parents etc.

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- 23.If for any reason a team is unable to field a side and fails to give more than 24hrs notice to the opposition, that team shall be liable for any referees expenses.
- 24.For the purpose of recording a result in the competition no team may win by a margin of more than 40 points. Except as allowed for in rule 14. If a game reaches a score difference of 40 points the referee shall suspend the game and call the team managers together. They have to agree either to end the game at that point or continue. If they agree to continue this may be in an agreed modified form (e.g. for a reduced period of time with any number of substitutions made, passive scrums, restarted after coaches have had sufficient time to instruct players)
- 25.If a result is submitted which shows a margin victory greater than 40 points, the winning teams score shall be reduced accordingly. Except as allowed for in rule 13.
- 26.All teams are required to carry adequate first aid kits and have a qualified fist aider present at the match to treat minor injuries.
- 27.If for any reason a team persistently fails to fulfil its fixtures, the team, at the discretion of the Warwickshire Colts RFU Committee, may be disqualified from the competition, and results of all games played be amended accordingly.
- 28.If a team withdraws from the competition or is disqualified before all fixtures have been played, all games already played will be declared void and league points adjusted accordingly.
- 29.Both teams to provide a responsible person, not a nominated replacement, to act as Touch Judge.
- 30.Any player dismissed from the field of play will be the subject to the discipline procedure adopted by the Warwickshire Rugby Football Union
- 31.Any red card against a spectator, coach or official must be dealt with in line with the regulations governing a Senior Player and be

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reported to and dealt with by the Warwickshire CB Disciplinary Committee. ( Or other CB committee)

32. All clubs entering the competition agree to follow the match day discipline protocols as agreed between the WSOR and Warwickshire Colts RFU.
33. Any disputes or matters not covered by these rules shall be referred to the Warwickshire Colts RFU Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

Geoff Waterhouse  
League Secretary  
29/08/16