

Leicestershire Merit Table Rules & Regulations

Season 2019- 2020

1. The competition is to be known as the Leicestershire Merit Tables. The competition shall be open to all 1st XV's of clubs who hold membership to the Leicestershire Rugby Union who are not competing in the RFU National and Midlands Leagues and for 2nd or 3rd XV's of those clubs and any teams from outside the CB subject to approval by the Leicestershire clubs.
2. For season 2019/20 three Merit Tables shall be run incorporating home and away fixtures against each team in their respective table.
3. It is the responsibility of individual clubs fixtures secretary's to agree fixture dates prior to the 1st August 2019 in line with the RFU's structured season. Fixtures are to be submitted to the competitions secretary asap and fixtures and results will be input onto the RFU GMS system.
4. Any team that fails to honour a fixture shall be deducted 3 points. The non offending side shall be awarded a 0 – 0 win
5. Players taking part must be members of the club they are representing. A player may not play for two different clubs within the same season without permission from the 1st club being given.
6. Should a player seek to represent a different club during the same season written notification should be given to the players previous club and a copy of correspondence be sent to the competitions committee to confirm all parties are in agreement and no debts are left unsettled.
7. **Players may not be used as replacements if they have already taken part in a higher ranked game. i.e. a substituted player from a 1st team game may not join a 2nd team game as a replacement. Shared replacements are permitted and a player can move up i.e. be replaced in a 3rd team game and join a 2nd team.**
8. Clubs who fail to meet the above regulations may be subject to a 3 point deduction at the discretion of the competitions committee.
9. A team winning a game shall be awarded 5 points, each team playing in a drawn game shall be awarded 3 points and a losing side shall be awarded 1 point for honouring the fixture a team losing by 7 points or fewer will be awarded a losing bonus point.
10. In the case of equality of league points won, the team with the highest points total shall be deemed the higher finisher. Should they still remain tied then points against shall be taken into account followed by the aggregate score recorded over the teams previous meetings.
11. In the above event any walkover results shall be removed from the totals for both sides.
12. The Home team is responsible for changing colours should a clash occur.
13. The home team is responsible for reporting the result to the league secretary either by phone, e-mail or text message no later than 9pm on the day of the game. Failure to do so may result in a points deduction and/or it shall be recorded as a forfeited game at the discretion of the management committee.
14. The competitions committee shall deal with any issues or problems that should arise. Should they find themselves unable to find a solution then matters shall be passed to the Leicestershire Management Committee to deal with.
15. Teams may use unlimited replacements and Interchanges. Any team having fewer than 15 players the opposition can only field one additional player. E.g. if a side has 12 players the opposition can only start with 13 players. A minimum of 10 players must start any game. If a side lends players the game can still take place subject to the 1 additional player rule.
- 16 Failure to start the game with competent front row players the game shall be played with passive scrums and the offending side will forfeit two points in the event of them winning or one point in the event of a draw. The deducted points will be awarded to the none offending side. In the event of injury to a front row player the game may continue uncontested until completed. The match referee shall be informed should a side be unable to continue with competitive scrums.
17. Kick off times shall be agreed by both clubs at least 48 hours prior to the proposed match day. If a club anticipates a problem in having sufficient players for a specific fixture both sides should attempt to rearrange the fixture. Rearrangement in the week 6 days or fewer prior to a game shall only be if BOTH clubs agree and all fixtures cancelled within 72 hours of kick off will be deemed to have been forfeited.
18. Should a team forfeit 3 games during the course of the season the management committee will approach the club to assess whether they are likely to be able to complete their remaining fixtures. If it is deemed that they are unlikely to be able to complete the fixtures they may be asked to withdraw from the league.

18. Entry to the Leicestershire Merit Tables is conditional on compliance with these regulations. The competitions committee reserve the right to remove clubs from the tables should they feel they are bringing the spirit of the game into question. (ex. Repeated poor on field discipline, playing non club members, forfeiting fixtures at less than 72 hours notice).