

# London and East Merit Leagues

## 2011 Season Manual

### Competition Format

This year's competition will operate on a merit table basis with teams organising fixtures amongst themselves.

The final league fixture will be on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> of July.

### Scoring System

Away Win: 3 points

Away Draw: 2 points

Home Win: 2 points

Home Draw: 1 point

100+ kilometer trip to away game: 1 point

Completion of Home and Away games with opponent: 1 point

Default on game within three days of the fixture: -1 point, with 24-0 scoreline awarded to opposition.\*\*

\*\* This means any team needing to cancel a game must inform the opposing side AND the Merit League Secretary, Steve Davis by Wednesday evening.

### Championship Play Offs

The top four teams who have played a minimum of five matches will then be invited into the Grand Final playoff series, which will take the following format:

6th August:	Semi Final 1:	1 <sup>st</sup> v 4 <sup>th</sup>
	Semi Final 2:	2 <sup>nd</sup> v 3 <sup>rd</sup>

13th August:	Grand Final:	Winners of Semi Finals
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The Grand Final will be played as the curtain raiser to the RLC Southern Premier Grand Final at Hemel Stags RLFC.

## **Insurance**

All clubs are reminded that they must confirm their entrance to the league in order to ensure they are subscribed to RFL's insurance policy.

Each club will be invoiced for their insurance directly from the RFL and a copy of the policy will be issued in May to all the clubs taking part.

If you have any queries regarding insurance, please contact Steve Davis at [steve.davis@rfl.uk.com](mailto:steve.davis@rfl.uk.com)

Any new teams taking part in the Merit Leagues will receive free insurance.

## **Fixtures**

Please ensure that once confirmed, fixtures are reported immediately to the Merit League Secretary, Steve Davis: [steve.davis@rfl.uk.com](mailto:steve.davis@rfl.uk.com) who will then coordinate a referee from the Southern Referees Society.

If a game is arranged after the Tuesday before the fixture, the League cannot guarantee a referee appointment and clubs may be forced to referee the game themselves.

In the event that no official is available it is the responsibility of the home side to supply a referee.

## **Team Sheets**

A copy of the Merit League team sheet is attached. This must be filled in by both teams before the start of the match, and forwarded by the home club to the LARL Secretary immediately afterwards, either by post or a scan email.

Postal address is: Rugby League Desk, Academy of Sport  
Technopark  
London South Bank University  
90 London Road  
SE1 6LN

## **Player Registrations**

Players need to be registered on RFL forms which are sent to Community Games Services on the address below. A minimum of 15 players must be registered before any games are played.

Jodie White  
Community Game Services  
RFL  
The Zone,  
St Andrews Road,  
Huddersfield, HD1 6PT

## **Lending of players**

The London and East Merit Leagues are intended as a development competitions, and a number of teams will inevitably struggle to field a full side on occasions. To ensure that a game takes place wherever possible the lending of players to the opposition is encouraged. In the last few seasons some teams have been more willing to enter into this spirit than others. The following are guidelines as to how the situation of player lending should be handled during games in the regular season:

- Games should be played as a minimum of 9 a side.
- If a team is able to field at least 9 players at the start of the match, they have fulfilled the fixture, otherwise the opposition are entitled to claim the points.
- In a situation where one team is short, the other side can make the decision whether to lend players to increase the number of players per side, but the game should start as an even numbered match with the number of players per side the “short” team have available.
- If the “short” team suffer injuries during the game, they should not be outnumbered by more than one player.

Above all please be sensible. We understand that it is frustrating for teams who regularly have a full squad to have to lend players, but it is always preferable that a game should be played in whichever form possible.

Teams that are in a position to field a full squad will receive our support in progressing to a higher level of competition in future. Please do travel to games whenever you have at least 9 players available, or even a couple less on the day of the game. We are sure you all understand the frustration and cost caused by late cancellations.