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## North-West Leagues Restructure

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June the RFU's Governance Standing Committee delegated authority to the Competitions Team (Development) to support officials from the North DOC in finding a solution. This includes the option to find a solution outside the parameters of Regulation 13.

In developing a league structure, the following principles have been applied:

- Travelling distance between competing teams
- Level of competition between clubs (in the same league)

It is important to note that the proposal outlined in this paper is an entirely pragmatic solution to address challenging issues within the North DOC and an inability to gain the necessary support from clubs to form a north-west league structure at Level 7 and below. It is also important to note that this is not an acceptance from the RFU that a particular body (CB or collection of clubs) have 'won the argument' or that beyond 2018-19 the structures displayed below will remain.

Historical issues leading to 19 Lancashire clubs resigning from RFU Leagues and recent appeals submitted to the RFU Head of Discipline have centred on either travel distance, disparity in playing standards or both. The structure presented below addresses both these issues and is proposed as a **one-year solution**.

The overwhelming feedback from Lancashire and Cheshire clubs is an unwillingness to travel to Cumbria. In order to develop a league structure ready for the start of the 2018/19 season we must accept this feedback is the primary obstacle to overcome. Given we are approaching July there is not sufficient time to fully consult with clubs on the issues of playing levels or travel distances.

The interim solution to ensure RFU Leagues are delivered in the north-west for 2018/19 is to restructure the leagues so that they are based on county boundaries (a) Cheshire/Lancashire and (b) Cumbria at Levels 7 and below, and therefore to disapply Level Transfer Regulations (13.2.11). In addition, consideration has to be given to introducing different league sizes and formats in order to address the concerns of clubs as identified above. Therefore, Regulation 13.2.4 (a)(viii) will not apply in 2018/19.

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Teamwork Respect Enjoyment Discipline Sportsmanship

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## North-West Leagues L7-9 2018/19

L7	L8	L9	L7	L8
<b>LC1 (13)</b>	<b>LC2 (11)</b>	<b>LC3 (11)</b>	<b>Cumbria 1 (8-11)</b>	<b>Cumbria 2 (7)</b>
Altrincham Kersal	Aspull	Ellesmere Port	Aspatria	Furness
Rochdale	Orrell	Ramsey	Wigton	Siloth
Glossop	Congleton	Old Bedians	St Benedicts	Workington
Bowdon	Dukinfield	Mossley Hill	Whitehaven	Carlisle Crusaders
Leigh	Oswestry	Old Parkonians	Keswick	Windermere
Southport	Port Sunlight	Newton Le Willows	Upper Eden	Egremont
Sefton	Marple	Prenton	Hawcoat Pk	Millom
Hoylake	Eccles	Liverpool Univ	Cockermouth**	
Fleetwood	New Brighton	Vagabonds		
Bolton	Garstang	Oldershaw		
Tarleton	Birchfield	Ruskin Park		
Winnington Pk				
Liverpool Collegiate				

Once it is known how many teams are in Cumbria 1 further consideration will be given to the number of matches played during the league season in Cumbria 1 and Cumbria 2 and whether a subsequent competition could be a further option to supplementing the number of matches played during the league season. For example:

- An eight team league could see teams play each other three times (resulting in 21 league matches) with the top four progressing to play-offs

In addition the RFU Adult Competitions Development Sub-Committee will instigate a comprehensive review of adult male rugby in the North with the intention of identifying a league structure for implementation in 2019/20.

The above proposals were submitted to the RFU Governance Standing Committee for approval under Regulation 13.1.3.

Governance approved the proposals unanimously.

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***Date: 29 June 2018***