

**SGM MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY 8 JULY 2024**

CHAIRPERSONS OPENING COMMENTS

Craig Webb (CW) Welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ROLL CALL

CW took the roll call of Clubs.

Those Clubs in Attendance were:

Ackworth Girls, Altofts, Amaranth Crossgates, Battyeford Belles, Beacon Rangers, Beeston Juniors, Bradford City FITC, Bramley Amigos, Brayton Belles, Brighouse Town, Calverley United, Castleford Town, Castleford WR, Clifton Rangers, Crossley Belles, Drighlington Juniors, Forza Football, Garforth Villa, Golcar United, Gomersal & Cleckheaton, Greetland Girls, Guiseley Girls, Halifax Women, Hebden Bridge Saints, Hepworth United, Holbeck Moor, Horsforth Juniors, Horsforth SM, Huddersfield Amateur, Killinghall Nomads, Kirkheaton Youth, Knaresborough Town, Leeds 28, Lepton Highlanders, Linthwaite FC, LS27, Methley United, Midddleton Park, Mirfield JFC, Morley Glen Juniors, Norristhorpe Juniors, North East Leeds, Ossett Town Juniors, Pannal Ash, Pinfold Pumas, Pontefract Collieries, Pontefract Wildcats, Queensbury Celtic, Redfearns Women, Rothwell Juniors, Rothwell Town, Ryburn United Women, SCOT FC, Shadwell United, Shelf Juniors, Sherburn WR, Stanningley Albion, Thackley Juniors, The Hunslet Club, Thornes Juniors, Thornhill, Thorpe Giants, Tingley Athletic,
Townville allstars, Wakefield City, Wakefield Owls, Wakefield Jets, Walton United, West End Terriers, Wetherby Athletic,
Whitkirk Wanderers, Wigton Moor, Woodkirk Valley, Wortley girls, Wyke Wanderers.

Those Clubs not in attendance:

Bolton Woods, Bramley Phoenix, Brighouse Juniors, Brodsworth Welfare, Colton Juniors, Crofton Juniors, Durkar Girls, Eldwick Juniors, Farsley Celtic, Farsley Celtic Juniors, FC Pontefract, Featherstone Flyers, Forge Way, Garforth Rangers, Gildersome Spurs, Goole Town Tigers, Hall Green United, Howden AFC, Howden Clough, Huddersfield Laund Hill, Huddersfield United, Idle FC, Ilkley Town, Kirkstall Crusaders, Leeds City Juniors, Leeds Juniors, Littletown FC, Marsden FC, Ossett Albion, Ovenden WR, Pudsey Juniors, Silsden AFC, Sporting Leeds, West Bretton, Wiggington Grasshoppers, Woodlanders, Wrenthorpe Ranger.

SKILLABUS PRESENTATION

Colin from Skillabus ran a small presentation about the organisation and what using their coaching programme could do for players in the WRGFL. He confirmed that using Skillabus was free of charge for WRGFL Clubs and that all girls were welcome to sign up. Colin gave all Clubs access to a QR code that would take them straight to the sign-up page. As part of the presentation Colin played some videos and gave a history of the organisation. Visit the WRGFL website for more information.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Russ Clarke (RC) had his report read to the League Council by CW. The League Council were asked to vote in the new WRGFL Management Committee or vote to leave this until the AGM. Clubs voted in the new committee at the SGM. League members wishing to join the MC were asked to contact RC.

2024/2025 WRGFL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Craig Webb
Vice Chairperson: Wayne Lockwood
Secretary: Russ Clarke
LWO: Stacey Timlin
Treasurer: Bev Anthony
Discipline: Bethany Osborne-Garrett
Registrations: Russ Clarke
Fixtures: Rob Jennings
 Wayne Lockwood
 Tracey Lockwood
Referees: Carl Ridyard
Social Media: Rob Leek
County Squads: Alex Maurice
FA Future Lionesses: Russ Clarke

SGM RATHER THAN AGM

RC’s report stated that The WRGFL had no choice but to postpone the AGM to a later date. The WRGFL still have no update from the FA in relation to whether they were going to enforce girls football leagues to allow boys to play within their structures. Up and down the Country Girls Leagues were awaiting the outcome of that FA decision. The knock-on effect should the FA insist on boys being able to play in girls leagues would be huge and would see a lot of interest from TV and social media. The WRGFL and its members would need to be prepared for that.

Should the FA insist all leagues will be mixed then the WRGFL had several choices. The WRGFL could step out of FA control and become an independent league. That must be a last resort as we had absolutely no idea how that would work. The other option would be to have all Clubs joining the WRGFL, as part of the entry criteria, sign an undertaking that only girls will be signed by the girls teams in their Club.

Once we had the final decision from the FA we could call our AGM and look at all rule changes and amendments for the season coming, 2024/2025.

The rule change that had caused the WRGFL concern was Rule 18G(i):

Rule 18(G)(i) has had the wording changed to***'Shall accept*'** rather than ***'have the power to accept'***. The rationale given for the removal of ***'have the power to'*** is noted as -***To clarify that the only basis for refusing a registration of a Player is pursuant to the***

***grounds set out in 18(G)(ii) or 18(G)(iii).***

(B)     (i)         The Management Committee shall accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rule 18(G)(ii) and (iii) below.

(ii)                          The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player, the exercise of such power being without prejudice to the Management Committee’s ability to fine a Club at its discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) that has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).

(iii)                       The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. Where the Management Committee does not have enough information to enable it to make a decision pursuant to the above power, it may apply, in its absolute discretion, to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA for further information. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.

DATES AND PLANNING

RC’s Report looked more closely at the spade work that went into creating fixtures for the upcoming season. The report gave an insight into the complexity of providing a league programme of fixtures and gave the League Council some understanding as to why 8 teams was the optimum number for a single division. To show how holiday’s impact where we put in our Cup Finals and Cup rounds together with our league fixtures. RC’s report confirmed the following would show the planning that goes into the season and how easily that could be disrupted by unnecessary postponement, weather, WRGFL knockout Cups and County Cups.

The WRGFL first looked at Local Authority school holidays and where they differed across our region. This season only Easter was different across LA’s. Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield broke up a week earlier than all other LA’s. What was odd is they would break up and be back at school before the Easter weekend?

LOCAL AUTHORITY HOLIDAY DATES (SATURDAY’S ONLY) – SEASON 2024/2025

BARNSLEY, BRADFORD, CALDERDALE, EAST RIDING, KIRKLEES, LEEDS, NORTH YORKS, WAKEFIELD & YORK

OCTOBER HT 2024 CHRISTMAS 2024 & FEBRUARY HT 2025 EASTER 2025 MAY BH’S 2025
 NEW YEAR 2025

26 October 2024 21 December 2024 15 February 2025 05 April 2025 24 May 2025
02 November 2024 28 December 2024 22 February 2025 12 April 2025
 04 January 2025 19 April 2025

DONCASTER, ROTHERHAM & SHEFFIELD

OCTOBER HT 2024 CHRISTMAS 2024 & FEBRUARY HT 2025 EASTER 2025 MAY BH’S 2025
 NEW YEAR 2025

26 October 2024 21 December 2024 15 February 2025 29 March 2025 24 May 2025
02 November 2024 28 December 2024 22 February 2025 05 April 2025
 04 January 2025 12 April 2025

The WRGFL defaulted to the Saturday dates above but confirmed that those teams who played home games on a Sunday would default to the Sunday date.

As could be seen with the dates, if the WRGFL closed fixtures during the holidays we would lose 11 Saturdays alone, that is without other bank holiday closures. We could not close for 11+ Saturday’s so put fixtures in on all dates but Christmas and Easter.

Bank holidays were as follows. May was always a difficult month due to bank holidays and the Women’s and Men’s FA Cup Finals. The coming season was going to be very difficult to fit The WRGFL Finals in, it could be that the 7V7 and 9V9 Finals would run in June with the 11V11 Finals on 12 May 2025.

BANK HOLIDAY DATES – SEASON 2024/2025

Christmas 25 December 2024
26 December 2024

New Year 01 January 2025

Good Friday 18 April 2025
Easter Monday 21 April 2025

Early May 05 May 2025
Spring Bank 26 May 2025

OTHER DATES

Women’s FA Cup Final TBC
Men’s FA Cup Final 17 MAY 2025

WRGFL CLOSED DATES

RC’s report noted that there were only 3 closed dates this coming season where no fixtures would be published by the WRGFL. Those date were:

21 December 2024
28 December 2024
19 April 2025

Teams wishing to organise games on those dates would be able to do so. When a game was organised and agreed between two teams each team should contact their Age Group Representative with details of that game. The Age Group Representative would then make sure the game was scheduled on FA Full-Time.

Please note that those teams who played home games on a Sunday would default to the Sunday date.

WRGFL OPEN DATES

The following dates would be open dates and fixtures would be published by the WRGFL on all of them, those dates were:

14, 21, 28 September 2024
05, 12, 19 October 2024
09, 16, 23, 30 November 2024
07, 14 December 2024
04, 11, 18, 25 January 2025
01, 08 February 2025
01, 08, 15, 22, 29 March 2025
05, 12, 26 April 2025
03, 10, 17, 24, 31 May 2025

That did not mean every team would have a game on an open date. Team Managers/Coaches should note that open dates meant that the WRGFL could put in a fixture with only 6 days’ notice. If a team did not have a game on an open date managers/coaches should not make any other arrangements until the WRGFL had confirmed a fixture free day. Team Managers/Coaches could get confirmation by contacting their Age Group Representative.

If Managers/Coaches wished to postpone a fixture on an ‘open date’ they would need to complete a Postponement Form. The Postponement Form could be accessed by using the link on the WRGFL Website at [www.wrgfl.org](http://www.wrgfl.org). Managers/Coaches should go to the website and then use the ‘Club Admin’ tab. When on the Club Admin page scroll down to the Postponement Form link button. Complete the Postponement Form in full. The Postponement Form link noted below for ease of use

[The West Riding Girls Football League New Postponement (leaguesystem.co.uk)](https://www.wrgfl.leaguesystem.co.uk/clubdirectory/teampostponementsnew.php)

If a Postponement Form was not submitted by a team by the close of play (midnight) on the day of a fixture a fine in accordance with the SCORY Fines Tariff would be issued to that team. Team Managers/Coaches were asked to note that both the home and away teams must submit a Postponement Form. There would be no exceptions, all teams would be fined were a Postponement Form was not received on time. If a Manager/Coach was unsure their Postponement Form had sent, the should take a screen shot of the completed Postponement Form and the message they received after sending. That would be proof of completing the Postponement Form if the FA System failed.

The WRGFL would allow games to be postponed at Half-Term without the need to use a Postponement Form. Managers/Coaches should put P-P on either the FA SMS Result Text or on their Matchday App. If a game result was still blank at the close of play (midnight) on the day of a fixture both teams involved in that fixture would be fined in accordance with the SCORY Fines Tariff.

WRGFL OPEN DATES – NO POSTPONEMENT FORM REQUIRED

26 October 2024
02 November 2024
15 February 2025
22 February 2025

It should be noted that those teams who played home games on a Sunday should default to the Sunday date.

WEATHER/PITCH CONDITIONS BLANK WEEKEND POSTPONEMENTS

Where the WRGFL knew most games in the league would be called off due to weather or pitch conditions a communication would be sent to all Managers/Coaches by email and on the age group WhatsApp Groups. If such a message was sent, then no Postponement Form would be required and all that would be required was P-P submitting on either the FA SMS Result Text or on the Matchday App. If a game result was still blank at the close of play (midnight) on the day of a fixture both teams involved in the fixture would be fined in accordance with the SCORY Fines Tariff.

CUP & SHIELD COMPETITIONS SEASON 2024/2025

RC’s report confirmed there would be 4 knockout competitions in most age group next season, 2024/2025 (where the number of divisions merited it).

It had become apparent over the last 5 years and more that the standard of football between the WRGFL’s top divisions and lower divisions was getting bigger and bigger, the knock-on effect was that our Cup & Shield Competitions were being hit by forfeitures in most rounds. By keeping the WRGFL’s top divisions and lower divisions apart, by having separate knockout competitions, would help keep the integrity of WRGFL knockout competitions.

In the younger age groups where published competitions had only a set number of weeks to run, U9 & U10 (4 weeks) and U11 (6 weeks) the extra competitions would also prevent us breaking FA guidelines.

There would also be an indoor knockout competition introduced for WRGFL U7 and U8 age groups during the winter months, probably January or February 2025. The competitions would probably be half day events.

The smaller knockout competitions would also help as there would be less rounds in the knockout Competitions, that would release more Saturdays for league fixtures.

Age groups that had 4 or more divisions would see the 4 Knockout Competitions introduced. Age groups with 3 divisions or less would remain with the traditional Cup & Shield only. The Competitions would be called: Cup, Shield, Plate, Trophy

The First round of the Cup and Plate would be held on Saturday 28 September 2024. Once we had league entries, we would publish all Cup and Plate dates. The Shield and Trophy events would be scheduled once the first and second rounds of the Cup and Plate had been played. The Shield (Cup losers) and Trophy (Plate losers) would be for first and second round losers in the Cup and Plate.

HEADING IN THE WRGFL

RC’s Report stated that there would be no heading permitted in the U7, U8 and U9 age groups next season 2024/2025. From U10 through to U18 heading would be permitted. The WRGFL would follow the roll out of the new heading guidelines as they came online each season. U10’s in 2025/2026 and U11’s in 2026/2027. Guidance was available on the league website for those still unsure of the new rules.

KICK INS IN THE WRGFL

The report also confirmed that In the U7, U8 and U9 age groups throw-ins would be replaced by kick-ins and dribble ins. Guidance was available on the league website for those still unsure of the new rules.

SEASON KICK OFF DAY

Saturday 14 September 2024.

CUP DATES

To be confirmed at the AGM.

RULE AMENDMENT

To be voted on at the AGM.

ACCOUNTS

To be presented at the AGM.

WELFARE OFFICERS REPORT

Stacey Timlin (ST) noted that last season had not been great from a Welfare Officers point of view but communication between the WRGFL Officer and Club Welfare Officers had improved and was currently very good. ST wants the communication between her and CWO’s to continue and with that in mind said she was available on the phone at any reasonable time. ST guided Clubs to the WRGFL website where all the forms needed to report incidents were available as well as information around making complaint or submitting concerns to the WRGFL or WRCFA. ST stated that the WRGFL would be taking a much tougher stance on discipline this season and that she and Bethany Osborne-Garrett (League Discipline Officer) would be working closely together to make sure Clubs and their members were helped where problems arose and disciplined where necessary. The WRGFL would not be afraid to put Clubs on a behaviour plan.

FIXTURES SECRETARIES REPORT

No Report

REGISTRATIONS SECRETARIES REPORT

The Registrations window is open on WGS. Please note that if a player’s photo is 2 years old you will have to upload another. It is always worth uploading a photo every season, so the player is recognisable. Players can be registered up until the day before you wish them to play as the WRGFL always do a late sweep on a Friday night. Please get all registrations done early and save the agony of sitting for hours whilst the system goes at a snail’s pace towards the beginning of the season.

REFEREES SECRETARIES REPORT

No Report

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

Rob Leek (RL) said the social media presence from most clubs had been really good last season so if Clubs could continue that into next that would be great. Keep tagging the WRGFL in to posts whilst also using various other hashtags like #girlsfootball & #hergametoo

RL confirmed he was happy to repost any recruitment posters Clubs had before the new season starts. That would be on a first come first served basis so if you would like him to post one then email him on: robertleek@gmx.com (email also on the website)

Last season the WRGFL shared photos on the website of various age groups across the season, and we were hoping to do the same again so that would be announced in due course.

RL confirmed that if he could be a help with anything across social media drop him an email and he’d do his best to help.

WEST RIDING COUNTY SQUADS REPORT

Alex Maurice (AL) gave a summary of the West Riding County Leagues Girls Squads 2023/2024 season.

There was an Expansion to 6 teams for the first time, teams from U10 through to U15

The squads trained once every 3 weeks at a central venue (WRCFA) and played 8-10 fixtures during the season, each squad was led by a minimum UEFA C qualified coach with a 50% female/male coach ratio.

The opposition had included local ETC sides like Rotherham and Lincoln, academy sides like Sheffield Utd, as well as international touring sides from Australia, Dubai and the USA.

The programme is designed to run alongside the girl’s existing grassroots sides, a requirement to take part being that a girls is playing within one of our County Leagues or at a qualifying club in the JPL.

Squads were selected via a 5-week trials process run during June & July 2024. There was great participation, with over 700 applicants attending the trials.

FA FUTURE LIONESSES PROGRAMME REPORT

RC confirmed that The FA Future Lionesses Goalkeeping Centres had had another successful season with full programmes running at our HPC, Grassroots and Grassroots Satellite Centres. The programme would run again next season 2024/2025.

The HPC and Grassroots Centre would run out of Trinity Academy in Leeds on a Friday night and the Satellite Centre at the West Riding County FA on a Sunday evening. The programme had been fully subscribed for the last two seasons and we expected demand to be high again this coming season. If Clubs or any parents would like further details on the FA Future Lionesses Goalkeeping programme, please get in touch with Russ Clarke on wrgflsecretary@gmail.com.

The HPC was by invite only as it was fully funded by the FA. FA Talent Scouts were out all the time looking at the Counties keepers. Clubs/parents could also apply for players to attend a talent day by using the link on the home page of the WRGFL Website – [www.wrgfl.org](http://www.wrgfl.org). Clubs/parents could Click on the Discover My Talent link if they knew a talented keeper or player who they felt would stand out at an England Talent Day. The window was closed currently but would open at the start of the 2024/2025 season. We didn’t have an opening date for the window just yet but would let Clubs/parents know in good time when the window opened.

For either Grassroots Centre Clubs should get their players parents to get in touch with Russ Clarke and he would give them all the information they will needed for signing up to the programme.