

Women's LFCP Panel Decisions 2017-18

28th December 2017

Club Name: Valley Red Ladies

Type of Request: Brought to the attention that HK Scottish Kukris had breached Rule 10.2.2 of the Women's League and Competition rules. National League 1 match day squads may consist of a maximum of 23 players, which must contain at least 5 front row players. It is the team's responsibility to ensure that all front row players and potential front row replacements are suitably trained.

Decision: HK Scottish Kukris will not be sanctioned, the panel felt that there was a lack of intent to benefit from the team and they felt that no advantage was being gained apart from allowing players to play rugby. The result on the pitch and decisions at the time should be accepted, except in the case of particularly egregious disregard of the rules.

The result of the match will stand and the panel have asked the HKRU to send out a reminder of the rules with regards to match day squads.

27th January 2018

Club Name: Valley Black Ladies

Type of Request: Reconsideration of the HKRU's ruling to exclude points from being carried over from round 1 of the Women's Premiership League.

Decision: The LFCP panel have considered Valley's application and have interpreted 16.1 as set out below.

The Definitions in clause 1 are quite clear:

1. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of these L&C Rules, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

(ii) Competition means any rugby union Competition administered by the Union

(vi) League means the domestic XVs rugby Competitions administered by the Union

(vii) League Competition means a Competition within the League

Whilst the use of "league" and "competition" in clause 16.1 are not capitalised to strictly bring them within the definitions set out in clause 1, however the panel agreed that the sensible interpretation is that the terms were used as intended in the definitions clause.

Taking the above definitions into account when considering the sensible interpretation of 16.1, the panel commented as follows:

- The Competitions only start once the round robins have been completed: "Premiership will play one round robin to decide which competition they will be placed into... " etc. The Competitions do not exist until the round robins have been completed.

- As "League means the ... Competitions" and the Competitions only start once the round robins have been completed, the League cannot include games which were played prior to the existence of the Competitions.
- As such, "all league matches" only includes games which are played within the relevant Competition and can therefore only include the results of games played after the end of the round robin games.
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Therefore with the above in mind the panel concluded and ruled that the points from the round robin should not be counted.