

West Yorkshire League 2018 Report

	Home Matches	Games Won	Away Matches	Games Won	Total Matches	Games Won	Points diff
Heckmondwike	4	14	4	12	8	26	131
Leeds	4	15	4	10	8	25	60
Mirfield	4	10	4	9	8	19	-41
Harrogate Montpellier	4	8	4	10	8	18	-32
Huddersfield	4	7	4	5	8	12	-118

Thanks to all the teams who played this season. It was not without incident but was completed mostly according to the schedule.

Yet again the oldest and longest established clubs are at the top and the other clubs are towards the other end. Mirfield have improved from 5th last year; Huddersfield had a bad year with two 0-5 thumpings in their first and last matches. Harrogate are similar to last year. But this year's winners are Heckmondwike and they will be presented with the trophy after it has been engraved.

The big issue this year was a team breaching the rules by selecting 2 players who had previously played for another club this season. As a result the club lost more matches than it should in one fixture as these players' games were deemed losses by default. The club concerned accepts that it broke the rules but it has raised some issues we need to address.

In the 2015 & 2016 seasons the rule was a team that could not field a full team for a game would lose 7-13. This occurred a couple of times. Games could be played and players lent to teams who were short but the result was pre-determined. At Leeds request this was changed in 2017 so the incomplete teams could play shorthanded. The rule leading to a 7-13 loss was deleted and another substituted. This is it.

2.7 A team without enough players to play a game at the agreed start time may play without the missing team member and their boules.

One player short in a triple is manageable but in a pair is disastrous. 2 players short leads to even more damage to the team. We never thought there would be 2 players (or more) short but it happened.

On the day it was decided that the deleted rule was followed and the new rule 2.7 was not considered. The league organiser was not consulted before, during or after the fixture. I do not propose to change anything as natural justice seems to have taken place. Ultimately it has had a significant effect on the placings in the table. However I would suggest that the original rule was better than the revised rule and would propose that we revert to this for the 2019 season. Talk this through at your clubs and let me know please.

The date and timings of fixtures is still an issue. I think it's unreasonable to ask Leeds & Harrogate to start at 1000 as it means an early start and rush hour traffic. Clubs should move to at least 1030. Clubs can also choose the day and time the play before the league starts. If clubs could give some thought to this they can play on a different day to their club sessions and reduce pressure to finish before their regular session starts.

Finally there is no provision in the rules for postponements apart from severe weather. Leeds have suggested we build something in. This year there was a fixture on a bank holiday and it resulted in a club

asking for a postponement a week before the fixture and being refused as the rules only gave the option to the home club and the away club had no rights in the matter.

I am reluctant to do this as reports from the York league indicate that some clubs are waiting for as many as 4 postponed matches to be played at the end of the season and there is a view that clubs ask for a postponement for minor reasons (including absence of certain players). Add to this the fact that our fixtures were released months ahead of the season and I think clubs should anticipate problems and find solutions. I am happy with the way we run our league but again I ask for all the clubs views.

Clubs should pay their league fees asap as I only have 3 clubs paid their league fees.

I'll ask for entries in January for next year. At that point we can tidy up the rules.