



Information for Colts Teams considering entry into the RFU National Boys U18 Cup, plus some details on the MOTiQ NWCL League Cup Competition

To: MOTiQ NW Colts League Team Managers and Coaches.

5th July 2026

The RFU will be running a National Boys U18 Cup competition again this season. They have not yet published the format or regulations, but we expect the competition will follow a similar structure to previous years: 128 teams, drawn from the top two ranked U18 sides in each County CB, with additional places allocated according to CB player registration numbers. The competition is a straight knockout, with no secondary competition for teams eliminated in the early rounds. Historically, our Clubs have played the first 3 rounds against NorthWest opposition, Round 4 and the Qtr-final against North Area sides, and the semi-final and final against clubs from the Midlands, South & South West.

The RFU previously stated National Cup fixtures take priority, However, within the MOTiQ NW Colts League competition league fixtures must take precedence. Teams will not be granted postponements if they choose to play a National Cup fixture instead of League or League Cup ties.

Clubs entering the RFU National U18 Cup will not be eligible to enter the MOTiQ NW Colts League Cup. Clubs must choose one route:

- Enter the RFU National U18 Cup; **or**
- Participate in the MOTiQ NWCL League Cup.

Teams should carefully assess whether National Cup entry is realistic within an already demanding season, which may include:

- Up to 18 league fixtures;
- League and County Cup competitions; and
- RFU National Cup fixtures that clash with MNWCL League and League Cup dates.

Last season, nine MOTiQ NWCL teams entered the National U18 Cup. Two withdrew before the competition began, after recognising the challenge of meeting all commitments; three teams were forced to concede league matches, with League Match postponements only permitted only for weather or pitch-related issues.

FYI ~ All scheduled RFU National Boys U18 competition dates clash directly with MOTiQ NWCL League and League Cup fixtures. Please refer to the MOTiQ NWCL Structured Season for details: <https://www.colts-rugby.org.uk/coltsleague.nsf/StructuredSeason?openform>

Any side progressing to Round 5, (the quarter-final), may need to forgo scheduled league fixtures to meet National Cup commitments.

League Committee **advice:** Teams considering entry to the National U18 Cup should fully evaluate the impact before committing. Participation may make it impractical to complete all league fixtures and will also prevent entry into the MNWCL League Cup. The Committee's view is that only clubs entered in the MOTiQ NWCL at Senior A level should consider entering the RFU National Boys U18 Cup.

MOTiQ NWCL League Cup Competition. All colts' sides will be entered into the League Cup unless they are entering the RFU National Under 18 Cup or have specifically asked not to take part in the League Cup. Each side will play at least two League Cup fixtures in a "falling-down" format. Full details will be confirmed once we know which clubs are entering the National Cup and whether any sides wish to opt out. League Cup round dates are shown in the aforementioned structured season.

We hope this helps Clubs make the right decision for their Colts sides. If you have any questions, please get in touch with your League Secretary before making a final decision.