



## LEAGUE RULES – 2023/24 FINAL

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STANDARD CODE OF RULES FOR MINI SOCCER AND YOUTH FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association for Mini Soccer and Youth Football Competitions (the “Standard Code”).

The Standard Code is mandatory for all Mini Soccer and Youth Football Competitions.

Competitions seeking sanction must draft their Rules in conformity with the Standard Code, using the same numbering and standard headings.

The mandatory rules are printed in normal text and the optional rules in italics.

It should be noted that in many cases rules are so printed because they are alternatives and the procedure to apply should be retained and the others omitted.

In all cases where a [ ] is shown the necessary name, address, number or wording to complete that rule must be inserted.

Competitions may add to the core of the Standard Code, which is mandatory, providing the additions are approved by the Sanctioning Authority and do not conflict with the mandatory rules or any relevant principles and policies established by The

FA. Guidance from the Sanctioning Authority should be sought in advance if there is any doubt as to the acceptability of additional rules.

Please note that from the 2021/22 season all players must be registered though WGS.

DEFINITIONS

**RULE 1 (A)** In these Rules:

“ <b>Affiliated Association</b> ” means an Association accorded the status of an affiliated Association under the Rules of The FA.
“ <b>AGM</b> ” shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.
“ <b>Club</b> ” means a Club for the time being in membership of the Competition.
“ <b>Competition</b> ” means the Derby Junior Football League.
“ <b>Competition Match</b> ” means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition.
“ <b>Contract Player</b> ” means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play under a written contract of employment with a Club.
“ <b>Deposit</b> ” means a sum of money deposited with the Competition as part of the requirements of membership of the Competition.
“ <b>Fees Tariff</b> ” means a list of fees approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any matters for which fees are payable under the Rules as set out at Schedule A.
“ <b>Fines Tariff</b> ” means a list of fines approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any breach of the Rules, as set out at Schedule A.
“ <b>Ground</b> ” means the ground on which the Club’s Team(s) plays its Competition Matches.

<p>“<b>Management Committee</b>” means in the case of a Competition which is an unincorporated association, the management committee elected to manage the running of the Competition and where the Competition is incorporated it means the Board of Directors appointed in accordance with the articles of association of that company.</p>
<p>“<b>Match Officials</b>” means the referee, the assistant referees and any fourth official appointed to a Competition Match.</p>
<p>“<b>Mini Soccer</b>” means those participating at ages under 7s to under 10s.</p>
<p>“<b>Non-Contract Player</b>” means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play for a Club but has not entered into a written contract of employment.</p>
<p>“<b>Officer</b>” means an individual who is appointed or elected to a position in a Club or Competition which requires that individual to make day to day decisions.</p>
<p>“<b>Participants</b>” means an Affiliated Association, Competition, Club, Club Official, Intermediary, Player, Official, Match Official, Management Committee member, member or employee of an Affiliated Club and all such persons who are from time to time participating in any activity sanctioned either directly or indirectly by the Association.</p>
<p>“<b>Player</b>” means any Contract Player, Non Contract Player or other player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club.</p>
<p>“<u>Player Registration System</u>” means <u>The FA system to register players as determined by The FA from time to time.</u></p>
<p>“<b>Playing Season</b>” means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the Competition is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the Competition is played.</p>
<p>“<b>Rules</b>” means these rules under which the Competition is administered.</p>
<p>“<b>Scholarship</b>” means a Scholarship as defined in The FA rules.</p>
<p>“<b>Secretary</b>” means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration of the Competition.</p>
<p>“<b>Team</b>” means a team affiliated to a Club.</p>
<p>“<b>Team Sheet</b>” means a form provided by the Competition on which the names of the Players taking part in a Competition Match are listed.</p>
<p>“<b>The FA</b>” means The Football Association Limited.</p>
<p>“<b>written</b>” or “<b>in writing</b>” means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.</p>
<p>“<b>Youth Football</b>” means those participating at ages under 11s to under 18s</p>

(B) Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders.

Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

## GOVERNANCE RULES

## RULE 2 - COMPETITION NAME AND CONSTITUTION

(A) The Competition will be known as The Derby Junior Football League. The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.

(B) This Competition shall consist of not more than Eighty Clubs approved by the sanctioning authority. The Derby Junior Football League will, where demand is sufficient run entirely separate Competitions on Saturdays and Sundays at each age group. As appropriate the Rules of the Competition are intended to apply in such a manner as to allow for this to happen.

(C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, and Leicestershire.

(D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Competition acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.

(E) All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation thereto, subject to the provisions of Rule 7

(F) The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules for Youth Competitions (the "Standard Code") determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.

(G) All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 10 in number.

The Competition will provide football in accordance with the agreed youth formats:

Under 7	5 a side	Mini-soccer Rules
Under 8	5 a side	Mini-soccer Rules
Under 9	7 a side	Mini-soccer Rules
Under 10	7 a side	Mini-soccer Rules
Under 11	9 a side	11 v 11 laws of the game with FA exceptions
Under 12	9 a side	11 v 11 laws of the game with FA exceptions

Other formats of youth football as authorised from time to time by the FA (including Futsal) are also permitted. Matches will take place on Saturdays and/or Sundays at central venues in the Derby area. The constitution of the Competition shall be vested in the Management Committee.

(H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

(i) The Competition and each member Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (to include those contained in the Equality Act 2010).

(ii) This Competition and each member Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.

(iii) Any breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.

(I) Clubs must comply with the provision of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including but not limited to, England Football Accredited and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

(J) All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The FA from time to time.

(K) Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing at a particular age group in the Competition in any other competition (with the exception of FA and County FA Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

(L) At the AGM or a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have the power to decide or adjust the compilation of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 12.

### RULE 3 - CLUB NAME

Any club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority and from the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

RULE 4 – TEAM ENTRY FEE. (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club must be made to the League/Registration Secretary by means of the On-Line Club Registration Form and must be submitted by the Club Secretary. The fees as set out in the Fees Tariff each team which shall be returned in the event of non-election, will be invoiced by the League Treasurer. Clubs who are renewing their membership of this Competition shall submit their teams within the League Registration System by the first day of June in each year. At the discretion of the voting members present applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the AGM or a Special General Meeting or on a date agreed by the Management Committee.

(B) The Team Entry Fee will be payable in accordance with the fees tariff for each Team in membership of the Competition and shall be payable on or before September in each year.

(C) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until all due fees have been paid.

(D) If requested by the Competition, Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 1 August of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season, failing which they shall be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, details of its headquarters, Officers any other information required by the Competition.

E) An all-female team can apply to the Competition to play an age group down in a mixed gender competition, subject to rule 8A(iii)&(iv) and provided the team has obtained approval from its Sanctioning Authority.

### RULE 5 - MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

(A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and members who shall be elected at the AGM. (B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing no later than May in each year. All other candidates for election as Officers or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the League Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs, not later than 30th April in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.

(C) The Management Committee shall meet as and when required, save that no more than three calendar months shall pass between each meeting.

(D) Except where otherwise mentioned, all communications shall be addressed to the League Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.

(E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

#### RULE 6 - POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

(A) The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all such committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of the FA or Affiliated Association.

(B) Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any Club which, may have withdrawn during the season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the season.

(C) Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote thereat, but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This principle shall apply to the procedure of any Committee). In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

(D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.

With the exception of Rules 6(i), 8(h) and 9, for all alleged breaches of a Rule, The Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged is required to respond to the charge within 7 days from the date of notification of the charge. In such reply a Club may:-

- (i) Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
- (ii) Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
- (iii) Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
- (iv) Deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee.

Where the Club charged fails to respond within 7 days, the Management Committee shall determine the charge in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.

Where required, hearings shall take place as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the reply of the Club as more fully set out above.

Having considered the reply of the Club (whether in writing or at a hearing), the Management Committee shall make its decision and, in the event that the charge is accepted or proven, decide on the appropriate penalty (with reference to the Fines Tariff where applicable).

The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £100 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence and considering any mitigating circumstances. No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game or the Rules and Regulations of The FA shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by the appropriate Association.

(E). All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.

(F) 50% of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee or any subcommittee thereof.

(G) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have the power to fill in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.

(H) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply to this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fine Tariff).

(I) Subject to its right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting of the notification of the decision. Any Club failing to do so will be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff). Further failure to pay such fine including the additional sum within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

(J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.

(K) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition Playing Season, subject to the provisions of the National League System Regulations or Women's Football Pyramid Regulations (which shall take precedence if applicable).

(L) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee shall be transacted by electronic mail.

(M) The wilful use of social media by Club Officials, Parents, Players or Club associates and agents to comment adversely on;

- Live disciplinary issues or decisions,
- League Rules, Processes or Procedures,
- Individual referee decisions or performances,
- Individual Club or player performances,

will be regarded as 'Misconduct' by the Club concerned under the Rules. All matters will be referred to the Derbyshire County FA Disciplinary Department for adjudication.

(Note - The spirit of this rule is to encourage and promote responsible use of social media to publicise club events and to use existing official channels to raise any concerns with the League.)

#### RULE 7 - PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

(A)(i) All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.

(ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the Competition Match.

(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within 7 days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of their Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

(C) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

(D) All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.

- (i) All parties must have received 14 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
- (ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should forward a deposit of £25 and indicate such when forwarding the written response.

(E) The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.

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(F) Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff), which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the appeal must also be sent to the Secretary. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority, in such respect the Sanctioning Authority may (but is not obliged to):

- (i) invite submissions by the parties involved; or
- (ii) convene a hearing to hear the appeal; or
  
- (iii) permit new evidence; or
- (iv) impose deadlines as are appropriate.

Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.

(G) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

#### RULE 8 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(A) The AGM shall be held no later than the end of July in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted:

- (i) To receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding AGM.
- (ii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
- (iii) Election of new Clubs.
- (iv) Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Playing Season.
- (v) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
- (vi) Appointment of Auditors.
- (vii) Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).
- (viii) Fix the date for commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competitions.
- (ix) Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season.
- (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.

(B) A copy of the duly verified Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting, together with any proposed Rule changes.

(C) A signed copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM.

(D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only and 14 days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.

(E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing their membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Playing Season being concluded. *This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 12.*

(F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.

(G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one member Club.

(H) Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (according to the Fine Tariff).

(I) Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club (See Rule 8.G)



(J) Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

#### RULE 9 - SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call an SGM.

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The Management Committee may call an SGM at any time.

At least seven (7) days' notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

9 D Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

Any Club failing to be represented at an SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club (See Rule 9.D)

#### RULE 10 - AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

Each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the application for membership for the coming Playing Season, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.

"We;

A \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

Address:

and

B \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary

Address

of \_\_\_\_\_ Football Club

Having been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Derby Junior Football League Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the Club, if elected or accepted into membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.

The agreement shall be signed by:

- (i) Where a Club is an unincorporated association, the Club Chairman and secretary; or
- (ii) Where a Club is an incorporated entity, two directors of the Club.

Any alteration of the Chairman and/or secretary of the Club on the above Agreement must be notified to the County Football Association to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

## RULE 11 - CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

(A) Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a team from the Competition must do so at least 30 days before the AGM. This does not apply to a club moving in accordance with Rule 22 (B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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(C) In addition to the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6(i), in the event of a member Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee are empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provision

## RULE 12 - EXCLUSION OF CLUBS / TEAM, MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

(A) At the AGM or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the agenda by direction of the Management Committee, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to: (i) remove a member of the Management Committee from office, (ii) exclude any Club or Team from membership, both of which must be supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A member of the Management Committee or Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(B) At the AGM, or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any *Club or Team* whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(C) Any Officer or member of a Club proved guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a Player or Players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of clauses (A) and/or (B) of this Rule.

## RULE 13 - TROPHY

(A) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy:-

"We;

A (name) \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

and

B (name) \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary)

of \_\_\_\_\_ F C

members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of Cup or Trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the Cup or Trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before 1 March. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair."

Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) At the close of each Competition awards may be made to winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

## RULE 14 - ALTERATION TO RULES

Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Association, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 19. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to the Rule relating to the qualification of Players shall not take effect until the following Playing Season except in exceptional circumstances and approved by Sanctioning Authority or The FA.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the League Secretary by 1 May in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to Clubs by 1 May and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 14 May. The proposal and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present and entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

## RULE 15 - FINANCE

(A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.

(B) All expenditure in excess of £1000 shall be approved by the Management Committee.

(C) The Financial year of the Competition will end on 31 May.

(D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be verified annually by some suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

## RULE 16 - INSURANCE

(A) All Clubs must have public liability insurance cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.

(B) All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the Sanctioning Authority. In the instance where The FA is the Sanctioning Authority, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which the Club affiliates. Failure to comply with Rule 16(A) or 16(B) will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.

## RULE 17 - DISSOLUTION

(A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a Special General Meeting by a majority of 3/4 of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant Special General Meeting.

(B) In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.

(C) The management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:

(i) Any surplus assets, save for a trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or the Football Benevolent Fund or to such charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the sanctioning association.

(ii) If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a Trophy or any presentation shall be returned to the Donor if the conditions attached to it provide or, if not, dealt with as the Sanctioning Authority may decide.

## MATCH RELATED RULES

### RULE 18 - QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

#### Current:

18. (A) (i) A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:-

(a) signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by his /her parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the

(Registrations) Secretary [ ] days prior to the Player playing and whose completed registration counterfoil has been received by the Club prior to playing in a Competition Match. The registration document must incorporate emergency contact details of the Player's parents or guardians. These details must be available at matches and training events the Player attends within the management of the Club or Competition;

or

(b) signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink on a match day prior to playing which is countersigned by their parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club and witnessed by an Officer of the opposing Club, and submitted to the (Registrations) Secretary within two days (Sundays excluded) subsequent to the Competition Match. The Player shall not play again on a subsequent match day until the Club is in possession of the completed counterfoil. A maximum of [ ] Players may be registered in accordance with this paragraph 18 (A) (i) (b). The registration document must incorporate emergency contact details of the Players' parents or guardians. These details must be available at matches and training events the Player attends within the management of the Club or Competition;

or

(c) registered through WGS.

Any registration form which is sent by either of the means set out at Rules 18(A) (i)(a) or (b) above that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed. If a Club attempts to register a player via WGS but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via WGS, the registration will not be processed.

For Clubs registering Players under Rules 18 (A) (i) (a) or (b) registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition. For Clubs registering Players via WGS (under Rule 18 (A) (i) (c)) Clubs must access WGS in order to complete the registration process.

(ii) Registration forms may also be submitted to the (Registrations) Secretary by electronic mail or facsimile machine prior to the Player playing in a Competition Match. The original document must be forwarded by post to the appropriate Officer of the Competition within three days of the Competition Match.

The registration document must incorporate a current passport-size photograph of the Player seeking registration together with confirmation that the Player's proof of date of birth has been checked by the Club and is accurate.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

18 (A) A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:-

1. Registered through the FA Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition.

Any registration that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed and the player classed as unregistered. If a Club attempts to register a player via the Player Registration System but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via the Player Registration System, the registration will not be processed.

For Clubs registering Players via the Player Registration System Clubs must access the Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process. The registration document must incorporate a

current passport-size photograph of the Player ( for U12 Age Group only) seeking registration together with confirmation that the Player's proof of date of birth has been checked by the Club and is accurate.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any player signing a registration form for that Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 10 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

- (ii) A Player registered with a Premier League or EFL Academy under the Elite Player Performance Plan contained within Youth Development Rules will not be permitted to play in this Competition, except for those in the under 11 age-group and below where consent has been given by the relevant Premier League or EFL (such consent can be withdrawn at any time). Trial players are not considered to be registered with a Premier League or EFL Academy for these purposes and therefore the prohibition on playing in the Competition does not apply to them. The relevant Premier League/EFL Academy remains responsible for managing the frequency of the player's playing time. Details of the Youth Development Rules are published on The FA website. A Player registered with an FA Girls' Regional Talent Club FA Emerging Talent Centre or an FA Professional Game Academy may play in this Competition subject to the FA Girls' Emerging Talent Centre Operating Criteria and Professional Game Academy Youth Development Rules.

(iii) Each Team must have the following number of Players registered 28 days before the start of each Playing Season:

FORMAT	MINIMUM NUMBER
5 v 5	5
7 v 7	7
9 v 9	9
11 v 11	11

Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

In the event of a Non Contract Player changing his status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, or with a Club in another Competition their registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18.B.1.

#### (C) Age Qualification

A child who has not attained the age of 6 shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match of any kind.

The relevant age for each Player is determined by their age as at midnight on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season. i.e. Children who are aged 6 as at midnight on 31 August in a playing season together with those who attain the age of 6 during the Playing Season will be classed as under 7 Players for that Playing Season.

Children who are aged 7 as at midnight on 31 August in a Playing Season will be classed as under 8 players for that Playing Season, and so on.

Notwithstanding the above, a child is permitted to play-up in the age group above their chronological age group, irrespective of any changes of format or competition structure, save that a child who attains the age of 6 after 31 August is permitted to play only in the under 7 age group, and may not play in the under 8 age group, for that Playing Season. . Girls in all female teams may also be permitted to play an age group down in accordance with Rule 4(E).

The age groups that children are eligible to play in are set out in the table below, (subject to Rule 4E) along with the permitted football formats for each of those age groups. . For the purposes of this Rule 18(C), provisions relating to playing in specified age groups shall include participating in training as well as playing in matches.

Children shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match between sides of more than the stated number of players, according to their age group.

Age on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season	Eligible Age Groups	Maximum Permitted Format	Minimum Yards	Pitch Sizes Metres	Maximum Yards	Pitch Sizes Metres	Recommended Goal Sizes in feet	Ball Size
6 Years	Under 7	5 v 5	30 x 20	27.5 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.5	12 x 6	3
6 Years	Under 8	5 v 5	30 x 20	27.5 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.5	12 x 6	3
7 Years	Under 8	5 v 5	30 x 20	27.5 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.5	12 x 6	3
7 Years	Under 9	7 v 7	50 x 30	45.8 x 27.5	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
8 Years	Under 9	7 v 7	50 x 30	45.8 x 27.5	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
8 Years	Under 10	7 v 7	50 x 30	45.8 x 27.5	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
9 Years	Under 10	7 v 7	50 x 30	45.8 x 27.5	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
9 Years	Under 11	9 v 9	70 x 40	64.0 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.2 x 45.8	16 x 7	4
10 Years	Under 11	9 v 9	70 x 40	64.0 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.2 x 45.8	16 x 7	4
10 Years	Under 12	9 v 9	70 x 40	64.0 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.2 x 45.8	16 x 7	4
11 Years	Under 12	9 v 9	70 x 40	64.0 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.2 x 45.8	16 x 7	4

(D) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered if applicable.

(E) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.

In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club, priority of registration shall decide for which Club the Player shall be registered. The Registration Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the Player of the fact of the previous registration.

(F) It shall be a breach of these Rules for a Player to:

(i) Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.

1. Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that playing season, except for the purpose of a transfer, or where the Competition adopts rule 18.P

Submit a signed registration form as per Rule 18 A.2 or submit a registration through the

(iii) Submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through **the Player Registration System** for registration that the Player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

G.(i)The Management Committee shall have power to 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 also have the power to refuse or cancel 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 ben charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.

(iv) For a Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18 (G) (iii) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12

months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

(Note: Action under Rule 18 (G) (iii) shall only be taken against a Player in cases of the Player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any event be subject to an appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or the FA. All decisions must include the period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the Player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match-based discipline, in any Competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.

(H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C when a Club wishes to register a Player who is already registered with another Club it shall submit a transfer form (in a format as determined by the Competition) to the Competition accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fees Tariff. Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the Club for which the Player is registered. Should this club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the Player concerned within 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the Registration Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the Player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or days after receipt of transfer.

In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision.

(I) A Player may not be registered for a club nor transferred to another club in the Competition after 1 March except by special permission of the Management Committee.

(J) A Club shall keep a list of the Players it registers and a record of all matches in which those Players have played for the Club and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.

In the event a Club has more than one Team in **any** age group, each team must be clearly identifiable but not designated 'A' or 'B', or '1<sup>st</sup>' or '2<sup>nd</sup>' but designated by a name e.g. Black Sox & White Sox. Players will be registered for one Team only. A Player so registered will be allowed to play for his Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 18(C). Team names must be unique for all teams, at all age groups.

Exceptional ruling to under 7 and under 8 only. Players at these age groups may register for more than one team within the same club, it is not permissible to register for one team and play for another. The daily limit of 40 minutes footballing as guided by The FA (see rule 20) remains in place. Where a child has played for a team in the cup or shield they are then effectively cup-tied and are not allowed to play for any other team in the cup or shield at that age group.

(K) A register containing the names of all Players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Registration Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of any Officer of the Club at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.

In the event of a Non-Contract Player changing his status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a Club in another Competition his registration as a Non-Contract Player will be automatically cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18 (B)(i).

(L) A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation-deciding Competition match (as specified in Rule 22(A)) unless the Player has played 5 league games for that team in this Competition in the current Playing Season.

(M) A team shall not include more than 5 Players who have/has taken part in one or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season unless a period of 21 days has elapsed since they last played.

For the purpose of the Rule a senior competition is "None"

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(N) (i) Subject to Rule 18(N) (ii) any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a match or matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(ii) The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18(N)(i) only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Players status.

(iii) Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18(M)(i) above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion:

- (a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponent's subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed.
- (b) Levy penalty points against the Club in default and/or
- (c) Order that such match or matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

(The following clause applies to Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary education)

(O) (i) Priority must be given at all times to the activities of schools and school organisations. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(ii) The availability of children must be cleared with the head teachers (except for Sunday Competitions).

(iii) To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.

(P) If a Club wishes to cancel a Player's registration within the Competition, it must make a request via The FA's electronic player registration system giving the reasons for the request. The Competition may either approve or decline the request.

If a Player's registration is cancelled they will not be eligible to re-register in the Competition for a period of 14 days from the date of cancellation.

## RULE 19 - CLUB COLOURS

Every Team must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by August 1<sup>st</sup> who shall decide as to their suitability.

Goalkeepers must wear colours, which distinguish them from other Players and the Match Officials.

No Player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.

Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeeper jersey) at least seven days before the match. If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the away Team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick-off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours they shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Shirts must all be numbered differently, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## RULE 20 - PLAYING SEASON, CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK OFF, POSTPONEMENTS, SUBSTITUTES

(A) All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board or, for Mini-Soccer, The Mini-Soccer and Youth Futsal Handbook, or, for 9v9 football, -The FA's Guide to 9v9 Football.

All Competition matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee.

The Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for matches in the Competition.

Artificial Football Turf Pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition provided they meet the required performance standards and are listed on The FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches. - <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register> All Football Turf Pitches used must be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every 3 years and the results passed to The FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register. The League and in turn Clubs are responsible for advising participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 20(C).

All Competition Matches shall have a duration as set out below unless a shorter time is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the Competition Match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

Competition Matches should be played in accordance with the Laws appropriate, to the relevant age group, as laid down by 'The FA as detailed below.



Age Group	<u>Minimum Duration of play per quarter (minutes)</u> (Mini-Soccer)	<u>Maximum Duration of play per quarter (minutes)</u> (Mini-Soccer only)	Minimum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all organised development fixtures (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all tournaments and trophy events/festivals (minutes)	Competition structure
Under 7 and Under 8	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	10	20	40	60	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season
Under 9 and Under 10	<u>10</u>	<u>12.5</u>	20	25	60	90	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season
Under 11	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	20	30	80	120	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season
Under 12	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	20	30	80 (if applicable)	120	Any varieties including one season long league table two seasons, an Autumn season and a Spring Season in which the top 2 and bottom 2 teams in each division will be promoted or relegated after teams have played each other once

Under 13 and Under 14	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	25	35	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 15 and Under 16	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	25	40	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 17 and Under 18	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	25	45	120	180	Any varieties including one season long league table

Competition Matches for age groups from U7 to U10 can be played in either quarters or halves. This Competition uses halves

For round robin / trophy events, the maximum duration of play per half cannot exceed, but the minimum duration per half may be adjusted.

For trophy events, the Competition may award mementos.

Within the National League System (“NLS”), and Regional NLS Feeder Leagues, all Competition Matches shall have a duration of 90 minutes. All other Competition Matches shall have duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than sixty (60) minutes) is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves. Two matches involving the same two Teams can be played on the same day providing the total playing time is not more than 120 minutes.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs prior to the scheduled date of the match with written notification given to the Secretary at least 5 days prior.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Secretary. The teams must provide goals / goal nets, corner flags, Respect barriers and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the League Secretary if the footballs are unsuitable. Failure to comply with this Rule could result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

No overhead netting is allowed for 9v9 and 11v11 affiliated matches

Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are removed for all affiliated matches in the NLS and at Regional NLS Feeder League level

For those leagues which are not Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are ideally removed for affiliated matches but if they cannot be removed then discretion is given to the match official to restart the match in accordance of the laws of the game.

(B) Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with consent of the (Fixtures) Secretary. Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs must be given 5 days clear notice of the match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).

No more than two closed dates will be allowed per team per season. One month's written notice must be given to the Competition Secretary of any Team Closed Date(s). The reasons given for the Closed Date must be acceptable to the Management Committee.

(C) Matches played at Central Venues will have all details published on FA Full-Time and notification between Clubs is not required.

Team managers/Respect Ambassadors are responsible for the behaviour of their spectators at all times. This includes immediately before and after the match. Managers (unless invited by the referee) and spectators shall not encroach upon the field of play and must stand behind the Respect Barriers only, or in a designated area. They shall not intimidate, provoke an individual or Team and shall not aggravate a situation or incident. Teams must install and remove Respect Barriers when designated to do so. The Match Official will not allow the match to commence without these are in place. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(D) The minimum number of Players that will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is as follows;

FORMAT	MINIMUM NUMBER
5 v 5	4
7 v 7	5
9 v 9	6
11 v 11	7

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(E) (i) In Competitions where points are awarded home and away matches shall be played, in the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have the power to impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff), deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the Competition Match in question to the opponents, re-arrange the fixture or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals.

(ii) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the appropriate Fixtures Secretary.

(iii) In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date set by the Management Committee. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, The Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in Accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(iv) The Management Committee shall review all matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand.

In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club Member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponents. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Competition Match.

(v) The Management Committee shall review any match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by The FA or Affiliated Association. In each case the Team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 18(N)(i) above. Where both Teams were under suspension the match must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

(F) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any match in this Competition.

Where a Competition does not allow return substitutes:

For Under 17s and Under 18s- (up to 3 may be selected from 3 substitute Players) (up to 4 may be selected from 4 substitute Players) (up to 5 may be selected from 5 substitute Players) . NOT APPLICABLE TO THIS LEAGUE.

Where a Competition does allow return substitutes: For Under 11s – Under 18s - up to 5 may be selected from 5 substitute Players. A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace any Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

For Mini-Soccer- any number of substitutions may be used at any time with the permission of the Match Official. Entry onto the field of play will only be allowed during a stoppage in play. A Player who has been replaced may return to the play as a substitute for another Player. A Team must not have a match day squad greater than double the size of its Team in an age group.

The referee and a representative of the opposing Club shall be informed of the names of the Players taking part in the Match (including the substitutes) not later than 10 minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match.

A Player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of a match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a Player in that game within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition.

(G) The half time interval shall be of 5 minutes duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the Match Officials.

(H) The Teams taking part in Youth Football shall identify a Team captain who shall wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of their teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

#### RULE 21 - REPORTING RESULTS

(A) Both Clubs in shall report all U12 results and U7,U8,U9,U10 and U11 teams / results in Cup or Shield competitions are to be reported via the FA Match Day App.as directed by the Competition to notify the result of each Competition Match by 10 pm . Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

#### RULE 22 - DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

(A) In a Competition where points are awarded. Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points, with three Points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners. Competition Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points, Team rankings may be determined by deciding match('s) played under conditions determined by the Management Committee, or the position shared.

For deciding matches, in the event of the scores in a special championship match played under conditions determined by the management committee being level at the end of the game, the winners will be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the International Board Decision contained in the Laws of Association Football.

(B) This clause is not applicable to this Competition.

(C) This clause is not applicable to this Competition.

(D) In the event of a team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing Season, all points obtained by, or recorded against, such defaulting team shall be expunged from the Competition table. For the purpose of the Rule 22 (D) a completed fixture shall include any Competition Matches which has been awarded by the Management Committee.

## RULE 23 - MATCH OFFICIALS

(A) Registered referees (and assistant referees where approved by The FA or County FA) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Association.

The Referees' Secretary shall keep a list as approved and issued by the Derbyshire County Football Association.

The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee.

(B) In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the clubs shall agree upon a Referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a Referee or Assistant Referee in any open age competition and individuals under the age of 14 must not participate either as a Referee or Assistant Referee in any competition. Referees between the ages of 14 and 16 are only eligible to officiate in competitions where the players' age band is at least one year younger than the age of the Referee, for example. A 15 year-old Referee may only officiate in competitions where the age banding is 14 or younger.

(C) Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee. Failure to do so will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff being imposed on the defaulting Club (Under 12 age groups only).

(D) The appointed match Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground and the decision shall be final subject to either in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, the representative of that body is the sole arbiter and whose decision must be accepted.

(E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Association, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid their fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff. Match Officials will be paid their fees by the home Club unless otherwise ordered by the Management Committee (this may vary for all u7 through to u11 games and cup competitions at all age groups where the match fee is split between both teams). Failure to comply with the Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(F) In the event a match not being played due to circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the appointed match officials, if present, shall be entitled to their full match which will be paid by the team(s) in-line with the protocols in rule 23E. Where a match does not go ahead as the direct result of a single teams actions then that team will be responsible for the entire match fee for the appointed match officials which, at the discretion of the League Committee, may be payable regardless of whether the appointed match official(s) attend the venue or not. Failure to comply with this rule may result in a fine being issued in accordance with the fines tariff.

(G) A referee not keeping their engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Association with which they are registered.

(H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the referee for each match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed Form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

(I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Playing Season, shall submit a summary to The FA / County FA.

(J) Not Applicable to this League.

(K) Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules.

(L) Match Officials shall have attended a Respect / Pre-Season meeting offered by the Competition.

(M) The Competition shall require all players and club officials to have signed the FA's Respect Codes of Conduct and produce these if so requested by the Management Committee. Prior to each match the participating teams and officials shall conduct the "Respect" handshake and/or participating teams to offer 'three cheers' and handshakes to the opposing team after the match.

All teams at all age groups are required to supply a Respect Ambassador. The Respect Ambassador should be present pitch-side on match days. They should wear the supplied respect jacket to ensure visibility. Failure to have a Respect Ambassador present may result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff being imposed on the defaulting club.

## SCHEDULE A

### FEES TARIFF

Rule Number	Description	Maximum Fee
4 (A)	ENTRY FEE	TBA
4 (B)	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	N / A
4 (C)	CLUB DEPOSIT/FIXTURE GUARANTEE	N / A
7 (C), 7 (E)	PROTEST/APPEALS FEE	£25.00
18 (D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE	N / A
18 (H)	TRANSFER FEE	N/A
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES	TBA
23 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	TBA

### FINES TARIFF

Rule Number	Description	Maximum Fine
2 (G)	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£100.00
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£100.00
2 (K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£100.00
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£100.00
4 (E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM	£100.00
5 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£25.00
6 (H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£100.00
6 (I)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE/INVOICE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	Double the fine up to £100
8 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM/LEAGUE PRESENTATION NIGHT	£100.00
9	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£100.00
10	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£25.00
11(A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£100.00
11(B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£100.00
13 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£25.00
16(A), 16 (B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100.00
18 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£40.00
18 (B) (iii)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON COMMENCING.	£25.00
18 (F)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£25.00
18 (G) (ii)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£100.00
18 (M)	FIELDING MORE THAN THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SENIOR CUP MATCHES	£100.00
18 (N) (i)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£100.00
18 (O) (i)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£50.00
19	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£10.00 (PER SHIRT, UP TO AN AGGREGATE MAXIMUM OF £30)
19	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£30.00
20 (A)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO INSTALL REQUIRED EQUIPMENT	£30.00
20 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£100.00
20 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£50.00
20 (D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£100.00
20 (E) (i) & (iii)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£100.00
20 (H)	NO CAPTAINS ARMBAND	£10.00
21 (A) & 21 (C)	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION	£20.00
21 (B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT/COMPLETE MATCH REPORT FORM	£20.00
21 (D)	PUBLISHING RESULTS/GRADING TABLES FOR FIXTURES INVOLVING U7 / U8 / U9 / U10 / U11's	£50.00
23 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£25.00
23 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS FEES AND EXPENSES	£25.00
23 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIAL WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£25.00
23 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£25.00
23 (M)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESPECT AMBASSADOR	£25.00

## CUP COMPETITIONS:

There will be a Cup/Shield Competition for Under 7 / 8 teams
The Under 9 Cup Competition shall be called "The Ken Oxford Cup"
The Under 9 Shield Competition shall be called "The Ken Oxford Shield"
The Under 10 Cup Competition shall be called 'The Mike Torrance Memorial Cup'
The Under 10 Shield Competition shall be called 'The Giuseppe Calderone Memorial Shield'
The Under 11 Cup Competition shall be called " The Spondon Trophies Cup"
The Under 11 Shield Competition shall be called "The Spondon Trophies Shield"
The Under 12 Sunday Competition shall be called "The Lewis Mighty Memorial Cup"
The Under 12 Saturday Competition shall be called " The Spondon Trophies Cup"

- The entire control and management of the Competition shall be vested in the Management Committee.
- The Management Committee shall have the power to formulate the Rules of the Competition and to alter or add to the Rules from time to time as they deem expedient. In any matter not specifically mentioned in these Rules, the Management Committee shall have the power to take such action and impose such penalties as it deems necessary.
- The Trophies are the property of the Derby Junior Football League and shall be returned to the League Secretary no later than 1<sup>st</sup> March of each year. upon request.
- Should the Trophy become damaged whilst under the care of the Club, the Club shall refund to the League the amount of the current insured value, or of thorough repair.
- When a player is ordered from the field of play for misconduct, the player's individual Trophy or Medal, to which he may be entitled, shall be withheld at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- The competition shall be compulsory for, and restricted to, teams who are members of the relevant section of the Derby Junior Football League. The qualification of players shall be as in League Rule 8.
- No player shall be eligible for the Semi-Final or Final Ties unless **they have** been registered with the team at least 30 days prior to these ties.
- Any Club being proved to have played an ineligible player shall have all teams at all age-groups removed from the competition.
- The Home Team shall report on the match as detailed in League Rule 11.
- All protests to be made to the League Secretary in writing, along with accompanying fee, within three days of the match. The fee shall be forfeited if the case not be proven. If the protest is upheld, the game shall be replayed if the Club whose protest is successful was on the losing side.
- A Player who has played in a Cup Match for their team and is transferred or registers for another team within the U12s age group, in the same season shall be Cup Tied as within FA Rules. A Player who has played in a Tournament Match for their team and is transferred or registers for another team within the U9s-U11s (inclusive) age group, in the same season shall not Cup Tied.

### Rules of Play (Knock Out Competitions)

- Matches will be played in accordance with Rule 20.
- In the event that the scores are level at the end of normal time, the tie will then be decided by kicks from the penalty spot.
- Only players on the pitch at the end of extra time shall be eligible to take penalties.
- For under 9's and under 10's three players shall be nominated to take one penalty each ( players 1-3). For under 11's and under 12's five players shall be nominated to take one penalty each (players 1-5).
- For under 9's and 10's if the score is level after three penalties each, the penalties will become sudden death, players 4 - 7 shall take these penalties. For under 11's and under 12's if the score is level after five penalties each the penalties will become sudden death, players 6 – 9 shall take these penalties.
- If the result is still not decided sudden death penalties continue starting again with Player 1 from each side until a winner is decided.

### Group Based Competitions

- Matches will be played in accordance with Rule 20.
- There will be no extra time in group based in 'Round Robin' stages of any Competition.

## Appendix One: Key Dates

This table is a summary of dates some of which are contained within the rules. The list is for guidance only.

Event	Date
Latest registration date for players	1 March
Return of all trophies	1 March
Player re-registration start date	1 April
Club continuation notice	31 March
Latest date to withdraw / add team for next season	1 June
End of financial year	31 May
Nomination of officers	30 April
Submission of proposed new rules	1 May
Teams registered for following season	1 June
Application for new teams to join	1 June – 31 July
Players may be approached	As of FA Rule C2
Annual General Meeting – AGM	No later than end of July
Completion of on-line player re-registration	1 June
Minimum number of players each team registered	16 August