

# Lincolnshire Women & Girls' Football League



Official League Rules 2022/2023

Sanctioned by Lincolnshire County FA

## **Standard Code of Rules**

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association (the "Standard Code").

The Standard Code is mandatory for all Competitions at Step 7 of the National League System and below, and The FA Women's Pyramid excluding **FA** Women's Super League and FA Women's Championship and 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.

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

## **Definitions**

1 (A) In these Rules:

**"Affiliated Association"** means an Association accorded the status of an affiliated Association under the Rules of the F.A.

**"AGM"** shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

**"Club"** means a Club for the time being in membership of the Competition and **"Team"** means a side from a Club especially where a Club provides more than one Team in a division in accordance with the Rules.

**"Competition"** means the Lincolnshire Women & Girls' Football League.

**"Competition Match"** means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition.

**"Contract Player"** means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play under a written contract of employment with a Club.

**"Deposit"** means a sum of money deposited with the Competition as part of the requirements of membership of the Competition.

**"Fees Tariff"** 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.

**"Fines Tariff"** means a list of fines 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.

**"Ground"** means the ground on which the Club's team(s) plays its Competition Matches.

**"Management Committee"** 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 the association of that company.

**"Match Officials"** means the referee, the assistant referees and any fourth official appointed to a Competition Match.

**"Non-Contract Player"** 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.

**"Officer"** 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.

**"Participant"** shall have the same meaning as set out in the Rules of The FA from time to time.

**"Player"** means any Contract Player, Non-Contract Player or other Player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club.

**"Playing Season"** 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.

**"Rules"** means these rules under which the Competition is administered.

**"Sanctioning Authority"** means the (F.A.) the Competition) the (Lincolnshire County Football Association Limited).

**"Scholarship"** means a Scholarship as set out in Rule C 3 (a) (i) of the Rules of the F.A.

**"Season"** means the period of time between AGM and the subsequent **AGM**.

**"Secretary"** means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration of the Competition.

**"SGM"** means a special general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

**"Team"** means a team affiliated to a Club, including where a Club provides more than one team in a Competition in accordance with the Rules.

**"The F.A."** means the Football Association Limited.

**"WGS"** means the Whole Game System and the procedures for the operation thereof as determined by the FA from time to time.

**"Written" or "in writing"** 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.

(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

## **2. Governance Rules. Competition Name. Constitution**

(A) The Competition will be known as The Lincolnshire Women & Girls' Football League. The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club that 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) The Competition shall consist of not more than 150 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

(C) The geographical area covered by the membership shall be Lincolnshire County or those clubs from outside of the County who fall within 20 miles of the border and have successfully been granted out of County dispensation to play within the Competition on mileage grounds.

(D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Competition acting 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 (the "Standard Code") determined 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.

The Competition shall apply annually for sanction by the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in Divisions each not exceeding 16 in number.

(H) Inclusivity and Non Discrimination

- (i) The Competition and each 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 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 by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, reassignment sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.
- (iii) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.

(I) Clubs must comply with the provisions 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 determined by The FA from time to time.

(K) Clubs shall not enter any of the Teams playing in the Competition in any other Competitions (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 SGM called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have the power to decide or adjust the constitutions of the Divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 22.

(M) Only one Team shall be permitted from any Club to participate in the same Division as another Team from the same Club unless there is no viable alternative because of logistical issues and/or reasons linked to participation and geographical boundaries. The Competition will obtain the prior approval of the Sanctioning Authority in the event of a Division comprising of more than one Team from the same Club. The competition will ensure that, where permission is given, Teams from a Club operating in the same Division are run as separate entities with no interchange of Players other than via transfers of registration in accordance with these Rules.

### **3. Club Name**

Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain 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.

#### **4. Entry Fee, Subscription, Deposit**

(A) Application by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional team(s) must be made in writing to the Secretary by and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee set out in the Fees Tariff per team which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

At the discretion of a majority of the accredited voting member's present applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting or on a date agreed by the management committee.

When Rule 22(B) is applied and a team seeks to transfer or, is compulsorily transferred to another division, no Entry Fee shall be payable.

(B) The Annual Subscription shall be as per the Fees Tariff per Team and shall be payable by or on a date agreed by the Management Committee.

(C) In the event of any issues concerning the membership of any Club with the Competition the Management Committee may require a Deposit to be paid by or on behalf of the Club on such terms and for such period as it may in its entire discretion think fit. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a Fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Entry Fee, Annual Subscription or Deposit (if required) have been paid.

(E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by the Annual General Meeting of its appropriate County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season, Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.



## **5. Management. Nomination. Election**

(A) (i) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and up to 4 Club Members who shall be elected at the AGM.

(ii) The Management Committee will also have a development officer position that will always be occupied by the Female Development Officer in post at the County FA.

(B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination providing the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than May 1<sup>st</sup> in each Year.

All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs. Not later than June 1<sup>st</sup> in each Year. Names of the candidates shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting.

(C) The Management Committee shall meet on the first Wednesday of the month or as often as is necessary to deal with business as it arises.

On receiving a requisition signed by two thirds of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee.

(D) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the 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 nominated Officers and sent to the Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## **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 sub-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 Football Association or Affiliated Association.

(B) Subject to the permission of the Lincolnshire County Football Association 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 shall apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).

In the event of the voting been equal on any matter, the Chairman of the Management Committee shall have a second or casting vote.

(D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall 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(1), 8(H), and 9, for all breaches of Rule a formal written charge must be issued. The respondent shall be given 7 days from the date of notice to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to: -

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

Where the Club fails to respond within the 7 days, the Management Committee shall determine the charge in such a 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 from 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 is £100 and when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

No participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

**All** breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of the Football Association 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 to the Board of Appeal in accordance with Rule 7.

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

**(F)** Fifty percent (50%) of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof.

(G) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill in 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 with this Rule **will** result in a Fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

**(I)** Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges are payable forthwith and must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision. Any Club failing to do so, will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional sum within the 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 to attend a meeting or match 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 SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition season.

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

## **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 at 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 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 5 days 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 for his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

(C) No protest of any kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club 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 the 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 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 7 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 indicate such when forwarding the written response. This could incur a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff to be received prior to the hearing.

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

(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 protest, 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;
- (ii) convene a hearing to hear the appeal;
- (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.

If so requested by all parties concerned, the Management Committee may determine any disputes, protests, appeals, claims or complaints between two Clubs in which event both Clubs shall send a non-returnable fee. Such determinations shall be final and binding upon the parties concerned. The procedure for such determination shall be determined by the Management Committee.

(H) All protests, claims or complaints relating to these Rules and appeals arising from a Player's contract shall be heard and determined by the Management Committee, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee. The Club or Players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining must send a copy of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee (as set out in the Fines Tariff) and shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld, and the party not succeeding may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Management Committee.

All such protests, claims, complaints and appeals must be received in writing by the Secretary within fourteen days of the event of the decision causing any of these to be submitted.

## **8. Annual General Meeting**

(A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the 1<sup>st</sup> August in each year. At this Meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 60% members are present and entitled to vote:

- (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.

- (ii) To receive and adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts.
- (iii) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
- (iv) Constitution of the Competition for the following season.
- (v) Election of Officers of the Competition and the Management Committee members.
- (vi) Appointment of auditors.
- (vii) Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).
- (viii) Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
- (ix) Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season (Save step 7 which shall be determined by The FA).
- (x) Any other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.

(B) A copy of the duly audited 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 change of Rules.

(C) A signed copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Lincolnshire County Football Association within 14 Days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.

(D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Fourteen days notice shall be given of any meeting.

(E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the season concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the 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 or behalf of more than one Member Club.

(H) An LJ continuing Club must be represented at the Annual General Meeting. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(I) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM.

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

## **9. Special General Meetings**

Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in Membership Secretariat shall call a Special General Meeting.

The Management Committee shall call a Special General Meeting at any time.

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

Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all such Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

An LJ Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Special General Meetings.

## **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 Season, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.

We, (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (name) \_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_ (address) \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman) and  
(B) \_\_\_\_\_ (name) \_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_ (address) \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary of the \_\_\_\_\_ Football Club have been provided with a copy of the Rules and regulations of the Lincolnshire Women & Girls' Football League Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept and 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 Secretary on the above Agreement must be notified to the Lincolnshire County Football Association or to the County, which the Club is affiliated, and to the Secretary of the Competition.

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

## **11. Continuation of Membership or 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 prior to the AGM. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22(8). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

All Clubs wishing to remain in membership of the Competition for the following season must confirm their intention to do so, in writing to the Secretary by 1<sup>st</sup> June each year.

(B) The Management Committee shall have discretion to deal with a team 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.

(C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6 (I) in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee shall be empowered to refer the debt to the FA Debt Recovery provisions.

## **12. Exclusion of Clubs, or Teams, Misconduct of Clubs, Officers, Players, Management Committee**

(A) At the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, Notice of Motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda by the 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 further membership which must be supported by (more than) two thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on the point shall be conducted by ballot. A

member of the Management Committee or Club which is subject to the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(B) At the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting 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 whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable upon a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast. 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 expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (A) and (B) of this Rule.

(D) Any Club Official/Parent/Guardian/ Spectator of a team or club charged and proved guilty, bringing this League into disrepute, may have the individuals suspended, fined up to a maximum of £100, may have 6 points deducted from its total at the discretion of the management committee and their team may be liable to expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their club may also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (A) and (B) of this rule.

### **13. Trophy**

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

WE (A \_\_\_\_\_ and (B \_\_\_\_\_) the Chairman and Secretary of \_\_\_\_\_ 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 the 1<sup>st</sup> of March each year. 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.

A Cup/Trophy must be returned in the condition it was presented or a fine as set out in the Fines Tariff **will** be imposed. A fine as set out in the Fines Tariff will be imposed on any Club failing to return the Cup/Trophy by the prescribed date.

Any Team who are winners of a Trophy and resign from the League must return the Trophy at the time of their resignation to the League Secretary.

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

#### **14. Alteration to Rules**

Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Association, shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. 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.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by 1st May in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee shall be circulated to the Clubs at least 7 days prior to the AGM any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by the 31st May in each year. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to the Clubs with the notice of the Annual

General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if 75% 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 Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the sanctioning Football Association 14 days prior to the date of the meeting.

## **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. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.

(C) The Financial Year of the Competition will end on 31<sup>st</sup> May in each year.

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

## **16. Insurance**

(A) All Clubs must have valid public liability, insurance cover of at least £10 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 instances where the FA is the Sanctioning Authority, the

minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates.

Failure to comply with this Rule 16 (A) or 16 (B) will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## **17. Dissolution**

(A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a Special General Meeting by a majority of three quarters( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) 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 on 1 y to another Competition or Affiliated Association or the Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by the resolution at or before the time of the winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Association.
- (ii) If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority may decide.

## **18. Match Related Rules & Qualification of Players**

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

- (i) Given the club in question consent, supported by his/her parent or guardian (in the case of those players that are U18) to assign their details to the Whole Game System, correctly submitted to the Competition Registrar and has been accepted and confirmed by the Competition prior to that player playing in a Competition match.
- (ii) In addition to the registration consent the manager must have the emergency contact details of the Player's parent or guardians at all matches and training events that the player attends within the management of the Club or Competition.
- (iii) Has been accepted and registered by the Competition registrar on the Whole Game System by 12:00, the Friday prior to the respective fixture.
- (iii) A team shall not include in any game more than 2 Players who have played in a more senior competition within the FA Women's League Pyramid within the last 21 days. Any Club not complying with this Rule will be subject to a Fine from the Management Committee as per the Competitions Fines Tariff.
- (iv) From the 2021/22 season all players must be registered through WGS. Any clubs failing to do so will be subject to a fine from the management committee as per the competitions fines tariff.

Any registration sent by the means set out in Rule 18(A) (i) 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.

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

- (B) (i) Contract players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those players who are registered under contract with the same Club who have a team operating at higher level at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System.

It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any player registered to the 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.

A Player registered with an FA Girls' Regional Talent Club or Advanced Coaching Centre may play within this competition subject to the FA Programme for Excellence (Female) regulations.

If any player is serving within any branch of Her Majesty's Regular Forces, the player must first obtain the consent of his/her Association secretary before registering to play for a Club.

- (ii) Each team must have the following number of players registered 14 days prior to the start of the Competition.

Format	Minimum Number
5v5	5
7v7	7
9v9	9
11 v 11	11

There are no maximum parameters indicating the number of players a team/club can sign on during a single season.

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 group for each player is determined by his or her age at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August of the relevant playing season i.e. children who are aged 6 at midnight of 31<sup>st</sup> 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<sup>st</sup> August in a playing season will be classed as Under 8 players for that playing season, and so on. Notwithstanding, a child is permitted to play up in the age group above his or her chronological age group irrespective of any changes in format or competition structure; save that, a child who attains the age of 6 after 31<sup>st</sup> 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. The age groups that children are eligible to play in are set out in Appendix 1 along with the permitted formats for each of those age groups. Children shall not play, 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.

(C) A Player that owes a football debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) to any Club(s) shall be permitted to register and play for a Club in the Competition, save that the Player may be liable to be suspended from playing for that Club should the Player fail to comply with the terms of the Debt Recovery Regulations in respect of that Football Debt.

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

(E) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes taking into account the following;

A player shall not be permitted to register for more than one Club competing in the same competition subject to the following exceptions; a player is only permitted to register for more than one team or club provided that the Team(s) in which the player plays are not in the same age group; or except for the purpose of a transfer.

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 Rule for a player to:

- (i) Play for more than one Club in the same season without first being transferred.
- (ii) Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that season except if the provisions set out in 18 (E).
- (iii) Submit a signed registration form 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 the power to accept the registration of any player subject to the provisions of clauses (ii) and (iii) below.

(ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player, at their discretion who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (Subject to Rule 7)

(iii) The Management Committee shall have the power to make application 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 F.A or the relevant County Football Association.

Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in the 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 dispute.

(Note: Action under Rule 18(G) (iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct on the Field of play until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Sanctioning Association, and then only in cases of bringing the Competition into dispute and will in any case be subject to an appeal to the Football Association. All decisions must include the period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule bringing the game into dispute 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 C2 (A) when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another Club it shall submit a transfer form in a format determined by the Competition to the Competition accompanied by the 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 the Club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the Player concerned within three days of receipt of the notification, upon receipt of the Clubs

consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within three days, the Competition 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 3 days after receipt of such transfer.

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

No team shall be allowed more than two transfers into their team from another club in the same competition during the season, except by permission of the management committee.

(I) A player may not be registered for a Club in the Competition after the 31<sup>st</sup> March except by special permission granted by the management committee.

(J) A Club shall keep a list of the players it registers and a record of the games, in which they have played, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee. In the event that a club has more than one team at an age group, each team must be clearly identifiable and in such cases, players will be registered for one team only. A player so registered will be allowed to play for his or her club in a different age group within the provisions of Rule 18.

(K) A register containing the names of all the players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the (Registrar) Secretary and shall be open to inspection of any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee Meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one season only.

In the event of a player without a written contract changing their status to that of a contracted player with the same Club in the Competition or with a Club in another competition, his or her registration as a non contract player will be automatically cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 8 (B) (i).

(L) A Player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 22 (A)) unless the player has played 3 games for that team in the Competition in the current season.

**(M)** A Team shall not include more than 2 Players who has/have taken part in more senior Competition Matches during the current playing season unless a period of 21 days has elapsed since they last played.

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

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

(ii) The Management Committee may vary this decision in respect of the points gained only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due 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 opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed: or
- (b) Levy penalty points against the Club in default; or
- (c) Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

(O) The following Clauses applies to Competitions involving players in full time secondary education:

- (i) Priority must be given at **all** times to school and school organisations activities. Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tarriff.
- (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with the Head teachers (except for Sunday Leagues).
- (iii) To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16 years.
- (iv) A child under the age of 15 at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the relevant playing season, shall not be permitted to play in a competition match during that playing season where any other player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.

**(P)** It is the responsibility of both clubs at a competition match to inspect the opposition team players from the Whole Game System registration record prior to kick off. Should either team have any issues as a result of this process, said issue should be raised with the lead match official prior to kick off, the game should take place as normal and after the game a report should be made to the Management Committee by the relevant club and the Match official.

## **19. Club Colours**

Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts and alternative colours of shirts and shorts with the Secretary by the AGM who shall decide as to their suitability.

Any Club wishing to change its colours during the Playing Season must obtain the permission of the Management Committee.

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 colour of the goalkeepers jersey) at least 3 days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs 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 will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Shirts must be numbered, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## **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, and 9v9 football, the rules as set down by the FA.

Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their grounds in a playable condition. All matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable By the Management Committee. If through any fault of the home team a match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.

The Management Committee shall have the power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for matches in the Competition and order the club concerned to play its fixtures on another ground.



Football Turf pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition providing they meet the required performance standards that are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf pitches.

The home Club is 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 in Appendix 2 unless a shorter time is mutually arranged by the two clubs in consultation with the referee and the management Committee prior to the commencement of the competition match and in any event shall be of two equal halves.

Within the National League System (NLS) all adult, open age, Competition Matches shall have duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than 60 minutes) is mutually arranged by the two captains in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event 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.

Competition matches should be played in accordance with the Laws appropriate to the relevant age group, as laid down by the FA here;

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

For trophy events, the competition may award mementos.

Competition League Fixtures that take place at the weekend shall all be set by the management committee. KO times will be 10.30, 12.30 and 14.00. Competition Cup fixtures will KO at 10.30, 12.30 and 13.30 **in** acknowledgement that extra time and penalties may be needed. Clubs are invited to be flexible with their playing day and KO time provided that each fixture KO, venue and all other relevant fixture details are mutually agreed between the two competing Clubs and notification is given to

the Competition at least 3 days prior to the scheduled fixtures. The clubs must not change the Kick Off time on Full Time. Any club failing to kick off at the agreed time may be fined in accordance with the fines tariff.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition.

The home team must provide goal nets and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff

- (A) Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The Football Association and all relevant parent County Association Cup Competitions and any Challenge Cup or any Cup Competitions, run in conjunction with this League All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may agree to mutually bring forward a match with the consent of the Fixture Secretary. A team will only be allowed to block out 2 Sunday's in the whole season with the exception of the 1<sup>st</sup> game of the season. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have the power to inflict a fine and/or deduct the points from the defaulting Club and/or Award the points from the match in question to the opponents and/or Order the game to be played and/or Order the defaulting Club to pay the expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the awarding of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing,

home and away provision the Management Committee shall have the power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

(B) In competitions where points are awarded Home and Away matches shall be played in the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs must be given by the Competition 7 clear days' notice of the match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).

(i) In the event of a postponed match, both teams must mutually agree a new date and notify the fixtures secretary within 7 days.

(ii) No single fixture may be postponed on more than one occasion by the same team. For every league game either team can only request for a fixture to be re-arranged on one occasion (unless caused by a weather postponement, cup draw, or special permission has been granted by the management committee. After this, the team cancelling the game on the second occasion will be fined in accordance with the fines tariff and the points awarded to the opposition.

Postponement of any scheduled fixture will only be permitted in the following circumstances:

- i. Contact must first be made with the relevant fixture Secretary who will grant permission to speak to the opponents.
- ii. Entry into a National or County FA Competition
- iii. Providing 3 or more players for League Representative matches, County School teams or County trials
- iv. Any school activity under Rule 18(N)(i) involving 3 players or more
- v. On instruction from the Management Committee, League Secretary or relevant Fixture Secretary
- vi. Adverse weather conditions
- vii. Every effort has been made to play the fixture at the opponents ground and the reasons for not doing so are provided to the fixture Secretary

With the exception of points iv, v and vi) above, at least 7 days notice of any such postponement and suitable evidence shall be given.

Failure to give the required notice and evidence to the relevant Fixture Secretary may result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Additionally teams will be permitted to call off one league game per season. This call off cannot be used for matches to be played after 1<sup>st</sup> April or for the purpose of participation in an external competition.

(C) The Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick off to the match officials and the Secretary or manager of the opposing Club or team at least 3 clear days prior to the playing of the match by verbal communication, email or text message. Acknowledgement of receipt by the opposition is mandatory. If details of the fixture are not so provided, the away club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition; likewise if the receipt of information isn't acknowledged by the opposition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(D) In accordance with the laws of the game the minimum number of players that will constitute a team for a Competition Match is outlined below. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Format	Minimum Number
5v5	5
7v7	6
9v9	7
11 v 11	8

(E)

(i) Any Club with more than one team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence: - First Team, Reserve Team, and A Team.

(ii) In the event of a Competition 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 to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixtures Secretary within 7 Days, the Management Committee shall have the power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. 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.

Any fixture not fulfilled after the 30<sup>th</sup> April in each season the points will be awarded to the non-defaulting Club and the defaulting Club will be dealt with as per League Rules. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(iii) 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 award

the points for the match to the opponent. 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 and/or take what other action they may deem necessary. In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams and their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match as void. No Fines can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

(iv) 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 Association or Affiliated Association. In each case the team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 18 (N) above. Where both teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

In the event of inclement weather the unfit pitch procedure must be carried out in order to prevent unnecessary travelling by the visiting team and officials. The procedure is shown in Appendix 3. Any team failing to comply will be fined in accordance with the fine tariff and be charged with reimbursing their opponents, match officials and/or league officer travelling cost at 25 p per mile for 4 cars (mini soccer) or 5 cars (youth or adult football)

(E) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game substitute Players in any Competition Match. A Club competing at U11-Open age football may name up to 5 substitute Players of whom 5 Players may be used.

A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace a Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of the Game.

For Mini Soccer any number of substitutes may be used at any time with the permission of the referee. 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 field of 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 any age group.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than 15 minutes before the start of the Match, and a Player 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.

(F) The half time interval shall be of 10 minutes duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

(G) The Clubs taking part in fixture Competition Match shall identify a team captain who has a responsibility to offer support to the management of the on-field discipline of his team mates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## **21. Reporting Results**

(A) The Competitions fixture Secretary must receive within 48 hours of the date played the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner i.e. Electronic Team Sheets. Teams are required to exchange team sheets at least 15 minutes before the kick-off and each Club shall keep the top copy and the opponents copy safe until requested by the Management Committee. Team triplicate team sheets shall be supplied to each team in the League at a cost as set out in the Fees Tariff, top copy to the referee, 2<sup>nd</sup> page to opponents and 3<sup>rd</sup> page to be retained. The sheets must include the forename and surname of the team players



(in block capitals) and also the referees name and markings as required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the competition. Failure to do so will incur a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.

(B) The home & away Club shall SMS the result of each match to the FA FULLTIME System within an hour of the full-time whistle. Clubs failing to comply shall be fined as per the Fines Tariff.

(C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

The competition and clubs are permitted to collect but NOT publish results or any grading tables for fixtures involving U8-U11 development games. Any club failing to abide by this rule will be dealt with by the sanctioning authority and fined in accordance with the fines tariff. The competition and clubs are permitted to collect and publish results for trophy events.

Each club shall enter the name of the referee and marks awarded out of 100 and shall submit these to the competition along with the electronic teamsheet. Each club shall award the opponent a sporting mark on the same sheet. Any team awarding an opponent a sporting mark of 4 or less or a referee mark of 60 or less shall submit a report in writing to the league secretary within 7 days of the match being completed including the reasons for awarding such a mark. All marks must be whole figures and not fractions or percentages on a scale of 0-100. Clubs failing to comply with this rule shall be fined in accordance with the fines tariff.

## **22. Determining Championship**

(A) In competitions where points are awarded, Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with 3 points to be awarded for a win and 1 point for a drawn match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more teams are equal on points team rankings shall be determined by goal difference (where goals scored against by each Club shall be deducted from the goals scored by that Club and the largest positive difference shall be placed highest).

In the event of two Teams still being equal, the Team that has scored the most goals during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.

In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team that has won most matches during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.

In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team that has the better playing record against the other Team in their head to head Competition Matches during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.

If the records of two or more teams are still equal and it is necessary for any reason to determine the position of each then the teams affected shall play a deciding match or matches as determined by the Management Committee.

(B) Where applicable, Automatic promotion may be applied for the top team of each division and automatic relegation may be applied for the last team in each division.

(i) Should one or more teams withdraw from any one Division after the fixtures have commenced an equal number of teams to those withdrawing in that Division shall not be automatically relegated.

(ii) Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the season may be filled on any of the following ways:

- (a) Retention of otherwise relegated team(s).
- (b) Additional promotion of the next ranked team(s) from the Division below.
- (c) Election.

**(iii)** In the event of a Team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting team shall be expunged from the Competition Table. For the purposes of this Rule 22 (D) a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match (es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee.

### **23. Match Officials**

(A) Registered Referees (and Assistant Referees where approved by the FA or County FA) for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.

B) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee, where applicable the appointed senior Assistant Referee shall take charge and a substitute Assistant Referee appointed by the competing teams. In cases where there are no officially appointed Assistant Referees, 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 Match and individuals under the age of 14 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any competition match. Referees between the ages of 14 to 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.

A team manager is not eligible to referee his or her own teams matches. Clubs failing to supply a recognised person shall be fined in accordance with the fines tariff.

(C) Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to comply with this Rule **will** result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(D) The appointed Referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final to either in the case 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 a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff and reimbursed with travel expenses or 25p per mile/ or inclusive of travel expenses immediately after the Competition Match by the home club. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

All match officials in competitions under the jurisdiction of the Association and Affiliated Associations must wear a uniform comprising a plain shirt which shall be almost entirely black with a white or black collar and black shorts. The socks will be black the socktop will be black white or the colour of the shirt or its collar. Affiliated associations may give permission for referees to wear non-black shirts in a competition which the affiliated association organises and/or sanctions. Referees under the age of 18 may, at their discretion wear a purple shirt when officiating in youth related U18 football in line with the County FA RESPECT policy.

(F) In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee plus expenses only. Where a match is not being played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Officials, if they attend the ground, their full fee and expenses. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(G) A Referee not keeping his or her engagement and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his non-appearance, may have the fact reported to the Association with which he is registered.

(H) Each Club shall in a manner prescribed from time to time by the Football Association 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 season, shall submit a summary to the County Football Association.

(J) N/A

(K) Referees and Assistant Referees shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.

**FEES TARIFF**

<b>RULE NUMBER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>MAXIMUM FEE</b>
4 (B)	Team Entry Fee/Annual Subscription	£40.00
4 (C)	Deposit	£40.00
7 (C), 7 (E)	Protests/ Appeals	£20.00
18 (D)	Player Registration	50 pence each
18 (H)	Transfer Forms	£5.00
21 (A)	Match Result Pads	£5.00
23 (E)	Referee Fee U8-U10	£10.00 plus expenses at 30p per mile
23 (E)	Referee Fee U11-U14	£15.00 plus expenses at 30p per mile
23 (E)	Referee Fee U15-U16	£18.00 plus expenses at 30p per mile
23 (E)	Referee Fee U18	£20.00 plus expenses at 30p per mile
23 (E)	Referee Fee Open Age	£20.00 plus expenses at 30p per mile
23 (E)	Assistant Referee Fee (if appointed)	£10.00 plus expenses at 30p per mile

## FINES TARIFF

<b>RULE NUMBER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>MAXIMUM FINE</b>
<b>2 (G)</b>	Failure to Affiliate	<b>N/A</b>
2 (I)	Failure to comply with FA Initiatives	<b>£20.00</b>
<b>2 (K)</b>	Unauthorised entry of Teams into Competitions	<b>£20.00</b>
3	Failure to obtain consent for a change of a Club Name	<b>£20.00</b>
4 (C)	Failure to pay a Deposit	<b>£10.00</b>
4 (E)	Failure to provide Affiliation Number/Details Form	<b>£20.00</b>
5 (E)	Communication conducted by persons other than the nominated Officers	<b>£25.00</b>
<b>6 (H)</b>	Failure to comply with the instructions of the Management Committee	<b>£25.00</b>
6 (I)	Failure to pay a fine within the required time frame 14 Days	Fine Doubled
<b>8 (H)</b>	Failure to be represented at AGM	<b>£50.00</b>
9	Failure to be represented at SGM	<b>£50.00</b>
10	Failure to submit the required written agreement or to notify change of signatories	<b>N/A</b>
<b>11 (A)</b>	Failure to provide notice of withdrawal before deadline	<b>£30.00</b>
<b>11 (B)</b>	Failure to Commence or Complete Seasons Fixtures	<b>£100.00</b>
<b>13 (A)</b>	Failure to supply the required written agreement regarding the Trophy	<b>£10.00</b>
<b>16 (A)</b>	Failure to have the required Insurance	<b>£25.00</b>
<b>16 (B)</b>	Failure to have the required Insurance	<b>£25.00</b>
<b>18 (A)</b>	Failure to correctly register a Player	<b>£25.00</b>
<b>18 (B)(iii)</b>	Failure to have the required number	<b>£15.00</b>

	of registered Players prior to the season commencing	
18 (F)	Registering or playing for multiple Clubs, or inaccurate completion of a registration form	<b>£20.00</b>
<b>18 (G) (ii)</b>	Registration Irregularities	<b>£10.00</b>
<b>18 (M)</b>	Playing more than the permitted number of players who have participated in senior competitions matches	<b>£40.00</b> per player
<b>18 (N)(i)</b>	Playing an ineligible Player	<b>£40.00</b> per player
<b>18 (O)(i)</b>	Failing to give priority to school activities	<b>£10.00</b>
<b>18</b>	Failing to inspect opposition ID WGS Cards	<b>£20.00</b>
<b>19</b>	Failure to number shirts	£1 per shirt, up to a maximum of <b>£20</b>
<b>19</b>	Failure to kick off on time due to no change of colour	<b>£20.00</b>
<b>20 (A)</b>	Delay the kick off due to failure to provide the required equipment	<b>£20.00</b>
<b>20 (B)</b>	Failure to play matches on date fixed	<b>£25.00</b>
<b>20 (C)</b>	Failure to provide details of a fixture within the given time frame	<b>£15.00</b>
<b>20 (D)</b>	Playing with less than the required number of Players	£10 per Player
20 (E) (i) & (iii)	Failure to play a Fixture	<b>£50.00</b>
20 (H)	No Captains Armbands	<b>£10.00</b>
21 (A) & 21 (C)	Late Result notification	<b>£10.00</b>
21 (B)	Failure to provide a Result	<b>£10.00</b>
21 (C)	Result notification not signed by appropriate signatories	<b>£10.00</b>
21 (D)	Publishing results for fixtures involving	<b>£20.00</b>



	development matches	
23 (C)	Failure to provide Club Assistant Referee	£20.00
23 (E)	Failure to pay Match Officials Fees & Expenses	£30.00
23 (F)	Failure to pay Match Officials where a match is not played	£15.00
23 (G)	Failure to supply a referee	£20.00
23 (H)	Failure to provide a Referee's Mark	£10.00

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### SCHEDULE A

Fees Tariff

Fines Tariff

# APPENDIX 1

Age on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season	Eligible Age Groups	Maximum Permitted Format	Minimum Pitch Sizes		Maximum Pitch Sizes		Recommended Goal Sizes in feet	Ball Size
			Yards	Metres	Yards	Metres		
6	Under7	SvS	30x20	27.45x18.3	40x30	36.3x27.45	12 x6	3
	Under8		30x20	27.45x18.3	40x10	36.3x27.45	12 x6	
7	Under8	SvS	30x20	27.45x18.3	40x30	36.3x27.45	12 x6	3
	Under9	7v7	50x30	45.75x27.45	60x40	54.9 x16.6	12 x6	
8	Under9	7v7	50 x30	45.75x27.45	60x40	54.9 x36.6	12 x6	3
	Under10		50x30	45.75x27.45	60x40	54.9 x16.6	12 x6	3
9	Under10	7v7	50x30	45.75x27.45	60x40	54.9 x16.6	12 x6	3
	Under11	9v9	70x40	64x36.6	80x50	73.15 x45.75	16 x7	4
10	Under11	9v9	70x40	64x36.6	80x50	73.15 x45.75	16 x7	4
	Under12		70x40	64x36.6	80x50	73.15 x45.75	16 x7	
11	Under12	9v9	70x40	64x36.6	80x50	73.15 x45.75	16 x7	4
	Under13	11v11	90x50	82.3 x45.75	100x60	91.44 x54.9	21 x7	
12	Under13	11v11	90x50	82.3 x45.75	100x60	91.44 x54.9	21 x7	4
	Under14		90x50	82.3 x45.75	100x60	91.44 x54.9	21 x7	
13	Under14	11v11	90x50	82.3 x45.75	100x60	91.44 x54.9	21 x7	4
	Under15		90x50	82.3 x45.75	110x70	100.58x64	24 x8	5
14	Under15	11v11	90x50	82.3 x45.75	110x70	100.58x64	24 x8	5
	Under16		90x50	82.3 x45.75	110x70	100.58x64	24 x8	
15	Under16	11v11	90x50	82.3 x45.75	110x70	100.58x64	24 x8	5
	Under17		100x50	91.44x45.75	130x100	118.87 x91.4	24 x8	
	Under18		100x50	91.44x45.75	130x100	118.87 x91.4	24 x8	
16	Under17	11v11	100 x50	91.44x45.75	130 x100	118.87 x91.4	24 x8	5
	Under18		100x50	91.44x45.75	130x100	118.87x91.4	24 x8	
	Open Age		100x50	91.44x45.75	130x100	118.87 x91.4	24 x8	

## APPENDIX2

Age Group	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 <b>tournaments</b> and trophy events/festiva6 (minutes)	Competition <b>structure</b>
Under? and Under8	10	20	40	60	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 2 week periods (6 weeks)
Under9 and Under10	20	25	60	90	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 4 week periods (12 weeks)
Under11	20	30	80	120	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 6 week periods (18 weeks)
Under12	20	30	80 (if applicable)	120	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under13 and Under14	25	35	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under15 and Under16	25	40	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under17 and Under18	25	45	120	180	Any varieties including one season long league table

### **APPENDIX 3- Unfit Pitch Procedure**

On the day before a match, if there is the slightest possibility that the pitch will be unfit for play, a home team representative is to contact their opponents and make arrangements to recontact them on the morning of the match. The home team representative is to organise for the match pitch to be inspected, by a referee, as early as possible on the morning of the match. The result of that inspection is to be telephoned to the travelling team at the arranged time.

Important;

- (a) The home team will organise a pitch inspection on the day of the game at a time that would allow the visitors plenty of time to travel [a late kick off in these circumstances would be understood]
- (b) The home team, having arranged to telephone the away team at a pre-arranged time must keep to that arrangement, regardless of any obvious weather improvement.
- (c) The away team should always make plans that all cars etc meet at one place before setting off.
- (d) The away team must not leave until they have received the pre-arranged telephone call to say whether the match is on or off.
- (e) The referee's decision whether the game on or off is final and will not be questioned.

Teams failing to carry out this procedure will be fined Under Rule 7 (a) and will probably have to reimburse the visiting team any expenses incurred.