



NORTH EAST HANTS YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE RULES FOR 2023/24 SEASON

CHANGES

The following rules have been changed for the 2023/24 season and the relevant changes are coloured in red.

Rule 18(B)(ii)
Rule 18(C)
Rule 18(N)
Rule 18(O)
Rule 20(A)
Advisory Note (Divisional Streaming)
Advisory Note (Wearing Bibs)
Festival Rule J
Festival Rule M



NORTH EAST HANTS YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

RULES FOR 2023/24 SEASON

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.

DEFINITIONS

1. (A) In these Rules:

"Affiliated Association" means an Association accorded the status of an Affiliated Association under the rules of The FA.

"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.

"Competition" means the North East Hampshire Youth 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, as set out at Schedule A.

"Fines Tariff" 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.

"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 association of that company.

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

"Mini Soccer" means those participating at ages under 7s to under 10s.

"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.

"Player Registration System" means The FA system to register players as determined by The FA from time to time.

"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 FA][the Hampshire County Football Association Limited].

"Scholarship" means a Scholarship as defined in the FA rules.

"Season" means the period of time between an 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 the Competition in accordance with the Rules.

"The FA" means The Football Association Limited.

"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.

"Youth Football" means those participating at ages under 11s to under 18s.

(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

COMPETITION NAME AND CONSTITUTION

2.

- (A) The Competition will be known as North East Hants Youth League (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). 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 100 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (C) The area covered by the Competition membership shall be for Clubs with grounds or headquarters situated within that part of Hampshire to the east of a line from Risley on the Hampshire/Berkshire County boundary south to and including Alton, south west to and not including Old Alresford and then south east to Hill Brow on the Hampshire/Sussex County boundary; and (ii) for Clubs outside Hampshire with grounds or headquarters situated within 15 miles of Farnborough Clockhouse. Clubs outside these areas may apply to join the League, subject to the approval at the AGM.
- (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 12 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 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 alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation 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.
 - (i) The League embraces all aspects of the Respect Programme utilising best practice, education and potential sanctioning as defined in the FA Respect Codes of Conducts for Players, Spectators, Managers and Officials. The Competition will utilise the Standard Code of Youth Rules as adopted by the League and further will use the England Football Accredited League Respect Tool Kit Publication.
 - (ii) Clubs will be required to ensure that each Parent or Official Carer for any player in the Competition, signs the FA Respect Codes of Conduct as published on the Competitions Web Site upon applying for membership to a club. These Codes of Conduct must be retained by the Clubs.
 - (iii) It will be deemed best practice for all spectators NOT to stand behind the opposition assistant referee (Linesman). If this means that spectators have to move at before kick-off and / or at Half Time then they must do so.
 - (iv) Respect Marshalls are to be appointed by Teams for each game. Their primary role is to act as a liaison point for the referee conduct Pre and Post match briefings / debriefings and if required as a point of contact during the game to explain their own team's supporters that a referee's threshold of disrespect has been breached and that everyone should calm down and that they will now be reported. Respect Marshalls are not to enter into any confrontation with opposing team supporters or management, but they can report respect issues to the League. Respect Marshalls will need to be clearly identifiable to the referee.
 - (v) Respect Marshall's will be asked to complete a simple online form to report respect breaches, or nil return.
 - (vi) Clubs will be required to appoint Respect Marshalls for all games in all age groups this is per team, at each game there will be two Respect Marshalls one from each Team. If no Respect Marshall is available then the responsibility falls back to the Team manager to act in this capacity, as they would normally.
 - (vii) If it is reported to the League by the referee that a team failed to supply a Respect Marshall then the League Respect manager will in the first instance ask for an explanation, and issue formal notification that it has been noted. Subsequent failures to supply a Respect Marshall will result in the Club being called to a League Management Meeting to further explain their position. The League will deal with this under the Powers of Management in the Competition rule set.
 - (viii) Referees will be required to report disrespect shown to them and to any disrespect shown towards assistant referees qualified or otherwise. The process on the pitch is to stop the game, call the Respect Marshalls to them and inform them of the spectator, or group of spectators or Manager that has breached Respect levels. Respect Marshalls then act as above. Referee makes reference in their notebook of time of incident and nature of the Respect Breach.
 - (ix) Post-Match debrief with Respect Marshalls can identify individuals and names provided where possible.
 - (x) Referees will be required via an online Google form, to indicate Respect Breaches.
 - (xi) The League Respect Manager on receiving a Respect Breach will inform the club that action needs to be taken in line with the Codes of Conduct Education and Sanction. The League and Sanctioning Authority will develop, with the clubs a process of various educational sanctions that can/must be applied.
 - (xii) The clubs will then have to report back within 10 days of the Notice of Respect Breach being issued, as to what action was taken. Along with supplying any proof of this action, online respect certificates, copies of written warnings etc.
 - (xiii) Failure for clubs to respond and provide evidence will result in the Competition following steps available in the England Football Accredited League Respect Tool Kit, which may lead to Teams having fixtures withheld on the grounds that the league are not satisfied that a safe and fun environment could be assured in which the players could participate
 - (xiv) An accumulation of Respect Breaches by Clubs or Teams will be dealt with by the league as per main competition
- Failure to comply with this Rule may 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 SGM called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the constitution of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 22.

CLUB NAME

- 3. 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.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

- 4. (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an entry fee per Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election. At the discretion of the voting members present applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the AGM or a SGM or on a date agreed by the Management Committee.
- (B) The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Team (and shall be payable on or before 31st May in each year.
- (C) A Deposit of £40 shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club/ and shall be payable on or before 31st May in each year. 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 and Deposit (if required) have been paid.
- (E) If requested by the Competition, Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 20th June of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its 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.
- (F) 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

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

- 5. (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and 2 from the Development & Competitive sections members who shall all be elected at the AGM.
[Note: The Officers of the Competition shall be the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Life Vice-President(s), Divisional Secretaries for each age group playing in the current season, League Welfare Officer, Training & Development Officer, Discipline Administrator, Rules Revision Officer; Respect Officer, Representative Team Co-ordinator, Trophies Secretary, Saturday Chairman, Saturday Secretary, Sunday Chairman, Sunday Secretary.]
[The exception to annual election are Life Vice-President(s) who are elected at an Annual General Meeting in recognition of past service to the League.]
- (B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than 14th February in each year.
All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two Clubs, not later than 14th February 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 the 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. On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) 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 Officers and sent to the Secretary.
Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

- 6. (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 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 shall also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).
In the event of the voting being 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 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 shall be given 7 days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. 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, taking into account 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 by the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof.
- (G) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have 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 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 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 fine 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 to attend a meeting or Competition 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 Playing Season.
- (L) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.
- (M) A Club that makes a request to the Secretary for an Officer of the League to attend a match or matches shall be liable to a claim for travelling expenses set at 50 pence per mile. This shall be paid by the requesting Club at the time of attendance at the venue. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be dealt with as the Management Committee see fit.
- (N) Any team proven to have failed to comply with a specific league rule on 3 or more occasions may have its fixtures suspended by the league until such time as the management committee deem appropriate.

PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

- 7. (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 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 forward a deposit of £25 and indicate such when forwarding the written response)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 determination shall be final and binding upon the parties concerned. The procedure for such determination shall be determined by the Management Committee.
- (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.
- (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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 8. (A) The AGM shall be held not later than 15th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least half of the members are present and entitled to vote:-
 - (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 Clubs to fill vacancies.
 - (iv) Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing 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.
 - (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 *verified* 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. 14 days' notice shall be given of any AGM.
- (E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being 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 behalf of more than one Club.
- (H) Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule, without satisfactory reason being given, 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 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.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

9. (A) Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a SGM.
- (B) The Management Committee may call a SGM at any time.
- (C) 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.
- (D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.
- (E) Any Club failing to be represented at a SGM, without satisfactory reason being given, shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (F) 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).

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

10. 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)/Director and (B) (name) [] of (address) [] (Secretary/Director) of [] Football Club (Limited) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the North East Hants Youth League/Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said 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 Parent County Football Association(s) 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.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

11. (A) Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition must do so at least 60 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.
- (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 under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAM. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

12. (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 at a 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.

13. **TROPHY:- LEGAL OWNERS, CONDITIONS OF TAKING OVER, AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED. AWARDS** (A) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy:-

"We A [name] and B [name], the Chairman and Secretary of [] FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of North East Hants Youth League 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 date specified on the trophy agreement. . 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 the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.
- (C) The winners shall arrange to have the trophy engraved before its return, the cost to be borne by the Club.
Any Club failing to return a trophy duly engraved by the 31st January shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.
Any Club having won a trophy and not having a team continuing with the League must return the trophy to the Competition Secretary immediately.

ALTERATION TO RULES

- 14. Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at a SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season except in exceptional circumstances where approved by Sanctioning Authority and The FA.
Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 1st February in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 14th February and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 29th February. The proposals 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 2/3rds [a majority] of those present, 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 or by 1st April whichever is sooner.

FINANCE

- 15. (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 £150 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 31st May.
- (D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be verified annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

INSURANCE

- 16. (A) All Clubs must have valid 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 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 Rule 16(A) or 16(B) will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

DISSOLUTION

- 17. (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.
- (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 Association Benevolent Fund or to such other 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 Authority.
 - (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 as the Sanctioning Authority may decide.

MATCH RELATED RULES

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

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

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.

Clubs must access the Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process.. ;

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 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.

(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 Academy (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 a 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 14 days before the start of each Playing Season:

FORMAT	MINIMUM NUMBER
5v5	5
7v7	7
9v9	9
11v11	11

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

(C) 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(F).

The age groups that children are eligible to play in are set out in the table below, subject to Rule 4(F), 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 Pitch Sizes		Maximum Pitch Sizes		Recommended Goal Sizes in feet	Ball Size
			Yards	Metres	Yards	Metres		
6	Under 7	5v5	30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	3
	Under 8		30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	
7	Under 8	5v5	30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	3
	Under 9	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	
8	Under 9	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
	Under 10		50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
9	Under 10	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
	Under 11	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
10	Under 11	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
	Under 12		70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	
11	Under 12	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
	Under 13	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	
12	Under 13	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	4
	Under 14		90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	
13	Under 14	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	4
	Under 15		90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	
14	Under 15	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
	Under 16		90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	
15	Under 16	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
	Under 17		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	
	Under 18		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	
16	Under 17	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5
	Under 18		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	
	Open Age		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	

- (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 taking into account the following.
- (i) A Player shall not be permitted to register for more than one Club subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) below.
 - (ii) In the event of a Player having a registration submitted for more than one Club priority of registration shall decide for which Club the Player shall be registered. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the Player of the fact of the previous registration subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) below.
 - (iii) A Player is only permitted to register for more than one Club provided that:
 - a. The Team(s) in which the Player plays in are not in the same age group; or
 - b. Except for the purpose of a transfer.
 And the Player meets the requirements in Rule 18(C).
- (F) It shall be a breach of these Rules for a Player to:-
- (i) Play for more than one Team in the same age group in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.
 - (ii) Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season, except if the provisions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) apply.
 - (iii) Submit a registration through the Player Registration System for registration that the Player had willfully 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 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 have the power 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 Sanctioning Authority or The FA. Where the Management Committee does not have enough information to enable it to make a decision pursuant to the above power, it may apply, in its absolute discretion, to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA for further information.
- 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 C2 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 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 1 day 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.

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

No player shall be permitted to transfer more than once in any one season except by special permission from 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 an age group, each Team must be clearly identifiable but not designated 'A' or 'B' or 1st or 2nd. In such cases, Players will be registered for one Team only. A Player so registered will be allowed to play for their Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 18(C).

- (K) A register containing the names of all Players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Appropriate Divisional Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of an 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 their status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition 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)(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 3 Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.

- (M) Not applicable to this competition.

- (N) (i) Subject to Rule 18(N)(ii), any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition Match or Matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Competition 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 Player's status.
- (iii) Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18(N)(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; and/or
- (c) Order that such Competition 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 activities. 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 their head teacher (except for Sunday league competitions).
- (iii) A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 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.

CLUB COLOURS

19. Every team must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 31st July who shall decide as to their suitability.

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

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all 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 5 days before the Competition 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 will 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.

Names of Youth Players shall not appear on the shirts, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF, POSTPONEMENTS, SUBSTITUTES

20. (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**.

Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their Grounds in a playable condition. All Competition Matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the home Team a Competition Match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.

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

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 three 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 home Club is also responsible for advising Participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 20(C).

Overhead netting is allowed for 5v5 and 7v7 mini soccer if the overhead netting height is at a minimum of 6m.

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	Minimum Duration of play per quarter (minutes) (Mini-Soccer)	Maximum Duration of play per quarter (minutes) (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	5	10	10	20	40	60	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 2 week periods (6 weeks)
Under 9 and Under 10	10	12.5	20	25	60	90	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 4 week periods (12 weeks)
Under 11	N/A	N/A	20	30	80	120	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 6 week periods (18 weeks)
Under 12	N/A	N/A	20	30	80 (if applicable)	120	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 13 and Under 14	N/A	N/A	25	35	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table

Under 15 and Under 16	N/A	N/A	25	40	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 17 and Under 18	N/A	N/A	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 quarters.

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

For trophy events, the Competition may award mementos.

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 Competition Match with written notification given to the Competition at least 5 days prior.

[Note: kick off times should be between 9.30am & 1.00pm for Saturday matches and between 12.00pm & 2.30pm for Sunday matches unless otherwise agreed at the AGM.]

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

The home Team must provide goal nets, corner flags 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.

- (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 Competition Match with the consent of the Divisional Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs must be given by the Competition 5 clear days' notice of the Competition Match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).
- (C) An 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 an Officer of the opposing Club at least 5 clear days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. If not so provided, the away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. 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
5v5	4
7v7	5
9v9	6
11v11	7

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

[Note: If a player does not appear on the Photo Squad List for a fixture, it renders that player ineligible to play in that match. The Photo Squad List will be held by the opposing Team Official for the duration of the match at the end of which they will be returned.]

For all Competition matches, the following process applies:

The Team Manager MUST be in possession of the Photo Squad List and team sheet for their team, including substitutes, for each match. **Team Officials WILL pass the team sheet the opposition team officials prior to the match (either electronically or a paper copy)** and an identity parade will then take place in the presence of the referee, comparing the Photo Squad List with the team sheet, to allow for the identity of the players to be confirmed. Both teams MUST ensure that the exchange of team sheets and identity parade takes place and failure to do so will incur a fine as per schedule and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide. A team turning up for a game without their Photo Squad List or team sheet, without good reason, may, after review by the Management Committee, forfeit the match. Games played where Photo Squad Lists and/or the team sheet are not exchanged between the teams will be automatically declared as friendly games and are null and void as far as the competition is concerned. If the Management Committee decides that any game so affected can be re-arranged, as opposed to forfeited, the date fixed by the appropriate Divisional Secretary will be binding on both clubs.

An on-line Referees Report shall be available, so that the Referee can acknowledged that Team Sheets, and ID Parade were completed. I

If it is proved that Photo Squad Lists and/or the match result card were offered, but not accepted, by a team then the game will be declared null and void and, if proved, the points will be awarded to the team not at fault and the club of the offending team may be charged with bringing the League into disrepute.

- (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, order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a Competition 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.
- (ii) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Divisional Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials. [Note: Teams are required to wait 30 minutes after the agreed kick off time before assuming that their opponents are not going to turn up.]
- (iii) 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 Divisional Secretary within 7 days the Management Committee shall have the power to order the Competition 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 an 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 Competition 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 Competition 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 Competition Match

to the opponent. In cases where a Competition Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Competition Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Competition Match.

- (v) The Management Committee shall review any Competition 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 Competition Match must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.
- (vi) None
- (f) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any Competition Match.
For Under 11s - Under 18s – a Club may use up to [5 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 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 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.
[Note: U7's to U10's only. If a team is losing by 4 goals they can add an additional player, if this increases to a 6 goal deficit then they can add another additional player. This would mean a maximum 7v5 or 9v7 depending on the age group/format. Substituted player coming on under these circumstances would need permission from the match official to enter the field of play.]
In Youth Football only, the referee shall be informed of the names of the substitute Players not later than 5 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 named as a substitute before the start of that Competition Match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a Player in that Competition Match within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition.
It is a requirement of all youth leagues and competitions to ensure any team sheet exchanged prior to the match whether electronic or paper copy must include the name and photo of all coaches present on the day of the match.”
- (g) For Youth Football, 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 referee.
For Development fixtures, the half time interval shall be 2 minutes duration, but it shall not exceed 5 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
- (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 his/her teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
The Teams taking part in Mini-Soccer football may identify a Team captain who shall wear an armband and may have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her teammates.
- (i) Each home club shall make arrangements for the provision of designated areas for spectators. This area can be marked by an additional painted line, the use of cones, a roped off area or use of a temporary spectator barrier. The area for spectators should start two metres from the touchline on one side of the pitch and team officials/coaches should be positioned on the opposite side. The area should run the full length of the pitch. It is recognised, however, that the alignment of some public pitches does not allow for this arrangement in which case other appropriate arrangements should be made.
- (l) Any team receiving a “Team Fair Play” or “Manager’s Score” or “Supporters Score” mark of four (4) or less on any Match Result Cards received from opponents, or being reported for a breach of FA Respect rules in any other manner, may receive a written warning and may be observed unannounced by a League official.
The league may also take the following action as deemed appropriate by the management committee:
Club Senior Management meeting with representatives of the Competition.
Fine in accordance with Rule 2(I) of the Fines Tariff.
Withdrawal of fixtures in accordance with Rule 2(I).

REPORTING RESULTS

21. (A) The Divisional Secretary must receive within 5 days of the date played, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. This must include the referee markings required by Rule 23, 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.
- (B) Both Clubs shall submit the result of each Competition Match to the league, using either the Full Time SMS system or the FA Matchday App, by a time specified by their Divisional Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (C) The match result notification, correctly completed must be received by the competition within five days of the fixture being played in the format prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
[Note: At the end of each season a Fairplay Trophy will be awarded to a team from each age group. Teams managers will mark their opposition players, management & spectators on a 1-10 basis, on the match result card. The Management Committee’s decision shall be final.]
- (D) The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect but NOT publish results or any grading tables for fixtures involving Under 7s, Under 8s, Under 9s, Under 10s, and Under 11s. Any Competition failing to abide by this Rule will be dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and any Club failing to abide by this Rule will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff). The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect and publish results for trophy events.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

22. (A) In Competitions 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 Competition Match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the 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 at the end of the Playing Season, rankings may be determined by a deciding match or matches played under conditions determined by the Management Committee, or the position shared.
- (i) Not applicable to this Competition
- (C) 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 purposes of this Rule 22 (D) a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee.

MATCH OFFICIALS

23. (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 Authority.

- (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 Competition Match, 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 competition match unless they are an FA registered referee and in full kit. 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 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 comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) being imposed on the defaulting Club.
- (D) The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final, subject to the determination of the Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, which must be accepted.
- (E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff inclusive of travel expenses.

Match Officials must be paid their match fee by the home Club before the Competition Match, unless otherwise ordered by the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

[Note: where assistant referees are appointed, the total fees are to be shared between the two competing teams.]

- (F) In the event of a Competition 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 only. Where a Competition Match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine 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 Affiliated 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 Competition Match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition by the prescribed method. 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 FA/County FA.
- (J) Not applicable to this competition.
- (K) Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.
- (L) Match Officials shall have undertaken a RESPECT briefing offered by The FA/County FA or the Competition.

SCHEDULE A

FEES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4 (A)	ENTRY FEE APPLICABLE TO NEW TEAMS ONLY, WHICH INCLUDES THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.	11v11 £80.00 per team 9v9 £70.00 per team 7v7 £60.00 per team 5v5 £35.00 per team Includes player registrations up to 31st August.
4 (B)	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION APPLICABLE TO EXISTING TEAMS ONLY.	11v11 £80.00 per team 9v9 £70.00 per team 7v7 £60.00 per team 5v5 £35.00 per team
4 (C)	DEPOSIT	£40.00 per club
7 (C), 7(E)	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£25.00 (Protest Fee) £50.00 (Appeal Fee)
18 (D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE	11v11 & 9v9 £5.00 (per player registered after 31st August) 7v7 £3.00 (per player registered after 31st August) 5v5 no fee required.
18 (H)	TRANSFER FEE	11v11 £10.00 9v9 £10.00 (or if within the same club £5.00) 7v7 £5.00 (or if within the same club £3.00) 5v5 no fee
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES INCLUSIVE OF TRAVEL EXPENSES	U17/U18 Divisions £40.00 U16 – U15 Divisions £35.00 U14 – U13 Divisions £30.00 U12 – U11 Divisions £25.00 U10 – U9 Divisions £20.00 U8 – U7 Divisions £18.00
23 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES INCLUSIVE OF TRAVEL EXPENSES	U17/U18 Divisions £35.00 U16 – U15 Divisions £30.00 U14 – U13 Divisions £25.00 U12 – U11 Divisions £20.00 U10 – U9 Divisions £18.00 U8 – U7 Divisions £15.00
23 (E)	RESERVE REFEREE FEES INCLUSIVE OF TRAVEL EXPENSES	U17/U18 Divisions £35.00 U16 – U15 Divisions £30.00 U14 – U13 Divisions £25.00 U12 – U11 Divisions £20.00

FINES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2 (G)	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£50.00
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£30.00
2 (K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£30.00
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£30.00
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£35.00
4(E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM	£20.00
5 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£25.00
6 (H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£50.00
6 (I)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN 14 DAYS OF NOTICE	DOUBLE THE ORIGINAL FINE UP TO £100.00
8 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£30.00
9	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£30.00
10	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£25.00
11 (A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£60.00
11 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£60.00
13 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£25.00 (written agreement)
	FAILURE TO ENGRAVE THE TROPHY AND OR RETURN THE TROPHY BY REQUIRED TIME	£20.00 + £1.00 per day thereafter (engraving and retuning trophy)
16(A)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£50.00
16(B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£50.00
18 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£30.00
18 (B)(iii)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE PLAYING SEASON COMMENCING	£5.00 per player (up to a total maximum of £25.00)
18 (F)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£25.00
18 (G)(ii)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£30.00
18 (N)(i)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£60.00
18 (O)(i)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£30.00
19	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£10.00 (per shirt, up to an aggregate maximum of £30.00)
19	NAMES BEING DISPLAYED ON SHIRTS	£50.00
19	DELAYING KICK OFF TO DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£20.00
20(A)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT	£20.00
20 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£50.00
20 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£20.00
20 (D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£5.00 (per player)
	FAILURE TO EXCHANGE PHOTO SQUAD LISTS	£60.00
20 (E) (i) & (iii)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£60.00
	FAILURE TO NOTIFY OPPOSITION/REFEREE OF POSTPONED FIXTURE	£25.00
20 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£10.00
21 (A) & 21 (C)	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£30.00
21 (B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£20.00
21(D)	PUBLISHING RESULTS/GRADING TABLES FOR FIXTURES INVOLVING U7S, U8S, U9S, U10S OR U11S	£20.00
23 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£20.00
23 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES ON THE DAY OF THE MATCH	£25.00
23 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£25.00
23 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£20.00

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SCHEDULE A

Fees Tariff

Fines Tariff

ADVISORY NOTES IN RELATION TO LEAGUE RULES

Qualified First Aider for every team

The home team must ensure that the field of play has adequate markings and regulation equipment including 2 linesmen's flags. Each club shall provide, for the individual use of each of its teams, a clearly marked first aid kit, which must be made available for inspection by any League official, containing the following basic items -

- i) A supply of adhesive dressings;
- ii) A selection of clean bandages;
- iii) Suitable dressing material to enable temporary cover of lacerations etc;
- iv) A supply of clean water and an eye wash facility;
- v) A suitable mouth to mouth resuscitation aid.

Adequate first aid cover must be provided at all matches. The minimum basic cover is the attendance of a Qualified First Aider (QFA) who is registered as such with the League. The presence of a person(s) equipped to resuscitate and render emergency aid, e.g. St. John Ambulance, is accepted as compliance with this Rule.

An application for registration may be made providing evidence is given of one of the following;

- i) A Certificate of Attendance, obtained within the last 3 years, at a course of instruction in basic first aid procedures, including resuscitation techniques, organised and executed by St. John Ambulance, British Red Cross or The Football Association (including the other Home Associations).
- ii) Other training approved by the League, e.g. attendance at a "First Aid at Work" scheme or professional medical qualification, and that refresher training has been completed within the previous 3 years.

It is the responsibility of the home club to ensure that a QFA is in attendance at the match from immediately prior to the kick off until all the players and officials have left the field of play at the conclusion of the game.

The QFA may be provided by either the home or the visiting team; he/she must be made known to both managers and verbally agree to provide the required cover. The presence of a QFA does not preclude treatment by other persons but the QFA's advice should be sought where necessary.

It is the responsibility of the home team to enter the name and registration number of the nominated QFA on the League Match Record Card prior to the commencement of the game. The visiting team must check that a QFA is present but does not have the power to reject the nominated QFA or to request evidence of qualification. If the details of a QFA are not included it will be assumed that no QFA was present.

League Representative Football

In the event of the League entering a Representative Competition only bona-fide registered players are to be selected. No player who is chosen to represent the League shall play for their own Club on the day of the Representative Match without special permission from the Management Committee.

Child Protection

In order to support the Football Association's Child Protection Policy the League requires each club to affirm that they are acting in accordance with the said Football Association's Child Protection policy by means of a signed Declaration incorporated in the League's Application for Membership. The League will require all Management Committee members and other volunteers for which it is directly responsible to complete and sign a Self/Personal Declaration Form which must be forwarded to the Secretary for entering on a register.

Child Protection - Additional Regulations as published by the Football Association.

1. Any act, statement, conduct or other matter which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children, shall constitute behaviour which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.
2. In these Regulations the expression "Offence" shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes The Association to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.
3. Upon receipt by The Association of:
 - 3.1 notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence; or
 - 3.2 notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, Social Services or any other authority relating to an Offence; or
 - 3.3 any other information which causes The Association reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then The Association shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
4. In reaching its determination as to whether an order under Regulation 3 should be made The Association shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:
 - 4.1 whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm;

4.2 whether the matters are of a serious nature;

4.3 whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by The Association or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded.

5. The period of an order referred to in 3 above shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge under the Rules of The Association or any Offence is decided or brought to an end.

6. Where an order is imposed on an individual under regulation 3 above, The Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of The Association against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.

7. Where a person is convicted, or is made the subject of a caution in respect of an Offence, that shall constitute a breach of the Rules of The Association and The Association shall have the power to order the suspension of the person from all or any specific football activity for such a period (including indefinitely) and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

8. For the purposes of these Regulations, The Association shall act through its Council or any committee or sub-committee thereof, including the Board.

9. Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or any club with which they are associated as soon as reasonably practicable.

10. Every child or young person, defined as any person under the age of 18, who plays or participates in football should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in football, thus every club is required to endorse and adhere to The Association's Safeguarding Children policy. The FA recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. The FA is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all children and young people to participate in the sport to the best of their abilities for as long as they choose to do so. The Safeguarding Children Policy is supported by The FA's Respect programme to address verbal abuse and bullying of youngsters by parents and coaches on the side lines. The Association's Safeguarding Children policy principles are that:

- the child's welfare is, and must always be, the paramount consideration
- all children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, faith or sexual orientation
- all suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately
- working in partnership with other organisations, children and young people and their parents and carers is essential.

The FA is committed to working in partnership with the Police, Children's Services Departments, and Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCB) in accordance with their procedures. This is essential to enable these organisations to carry out their statutory duties to investigate concerns and protect all children and young people.

The Association's Safeguarding Children Policy is in response to government legislation and guidance, developed to safeguard the welfare and development of children and young people.

General

1. (a) In these Regulations the expression "Offence" shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in the Schedules of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes The Association to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.

(b) Where any case is referred to the Safeguarding Review Panel pursuant to these Regulations, it shall be considered by the Panel on the basis of written material only. No party shall be permitted to attend to address the Safeguarding Review Panel.

The FA CRC Process

All persons applying for or currently in such positions that The Football Association deems relevant whose duties include regularly caring for, training, supervising or being in charge of children, must comply with the requirements of The Football Association's CRC process. These requirements are:-

(i) To obtain an FA Enhanced CRC Disclosure; and

(ii) To provide any such further detail, explanation or clarification of any or all part or parts of that Enhanced Disclosure, or any matter revealed by it, as may be required by The Football Association; and

(iii) Where required, to provide at least two references that attest to their suitability to be involved in youth football. The spouse or partner of the person subject to this requirement cannot act as a referee for this purpose. Any reference provided by a spouse or partner will not be accepted; and

(iv) To comply with each of the requirements set out in regulations (i) – (iii) above within any such time limit as The Association may stipulate.

Any person who fails to comply with any of the requirements set out in sub-paragraphs (i) – (iv) above shall be subject to an immediate suspension from football activity, on such terms and for such period as The Football Association may stipulate.

Interim Suspension Orders

3. Upon receipt by The Association of:

3.1 Notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence; or

3.2 Notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, Children's Services or any other authority relating to an Offence; or

3.3 Any other information which causes The Association reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.

The Association shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such a period and on such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate. Such suspensions will be issued by the Case Manager or his/her nominee. The initial notification of any such suspension sent to an individual shall set out the right of appeal contained in Regulation 6 below.

4. In determining whether an order under regulation 3 should be made, the Case Manager or his/her nominee shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:-

4.1 Whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm;

4.2 Whether the matters are of a serious nature;

4.3 Whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by The Association or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded having regard to the need for any suspension order to be proportionate.

All such suspension orders will be reviewed at the next meeting of The Association's Safeguarding Review Panel. The Panel may ratify, modify or remove any such suspension, or make any other order in relation to that suspension as it deems appropriate.

5. The total period of an order referred to in Regulation 3 above shall not last beyond the final determination of any related case under the Rules of The Association.

6. Any individual subject to a suspension order under Regulation 3 may appeal against it once the period of three months from the imposition of the suspension order by the Case Manager/nominee has elapsed.

7. Such appeals shall be considered by the Safeguarding Review Panel. At least one member of any Panel considering an appeal shall not have been a member of any Panel which conducted the initial review, under Regulation 4 above, of the suspension order being appealed.

8. To bring an appeal under Regulation 6, the individual must give notice in writing to the Case Manager/nominee, requesting such an appeal. The individual may submit any written material in support of the appeal. Such material must be submitted within 14 days of giving such notice or it may not be considered by the Safeguarding Review Panel.

9. The Safeguarding Review Panel shall consider all written material submitted by the individual requesting the appeal and in support of that appeal. The Case Manager/nominee may also submit any written material for consideration by the Panel.

10. On considering an appeal, the Safeguarding Review Panel shall have the power to make any order in relation to the interim suspension order as it deems appropriate, including ratifying, modifying or removing it. The Panel shall also have power to make any order in relation to the conduct of the appeal proceedings as it deems appropriate, including requiring more information from either the individual or the Case Manager/nominee.

11. Any appeal under Regulation 6 shall be heard by the Safeguarding Review Panel at the earliest opportunity, following the receipt of notice in writing and any written material in support of the appeal from the individual.

12. Where an order is imposed on an individual under Regulation 3 above, The Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of The Association against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.

Playing abroad or playing foreign clubs at home

Any Club proposing to play matches against foreign opposition, either home or away, must apply to the Football Association for the appropriate form at least SIX WEEKS before the date of the proposed match. On completion, this form must be passed to the League Secretary who will then forward it to the Secretary of the relevant County Football Association for onward transmission to the Football Association who will then grant permission. If matches are played in school term time permission of the school head teacher must be obtained in writing before the application can be approved.

General Information

(a) Hampshire County Youth Cup matches.

i) Duration of play:

Under 12 30 minutes each way

Under 13-14 35 minutes each way

Under 15-16 40 minutes each way

Under 18 45 minutes each way

ii) For teams in all age groups the use of five substitutes from five will be allowed, a player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football. The referee must be informed of the names of all substitutes before the start of the match.

iii) The minimum number of players constituting a team for this competition is seven.

iv) At all ages where the scores are equal at the end of normal time the result will be decided by the taking of penalty kicks so that a result is obtained without the need for a replay.

(b) Clubs are reminded that Small Side Tournament Regulations and Laws are laid down by their County Football Association to whom all applications must be made to obtain the required sanction.

Divisional Streaming

The Competition **may** stream the age groups, subject to Team application in the general manner:

U12s – Format 9v9

U13s/U14s – Format 11v11

The season may consist of organised streaming fixtures for Sept and Oct and organised divisional fixtures 2nd week November -

April.

- Streaming Development Matches - Sep and Oct - with no more than 8 Teams per Division
- Divisional Matches – 2nd week November - **April** - no more than 8 Teams per Division

Fixtures and Results on FA-Full Time System.

The League will collect the results of their fixtures, publish the results and league tables (for competitive matches only and or festivals at the discretion of the League Management Committee) in respect of their fixtures.

Wearing Bibs

In **Mini-Soccer matches only (i.e. U7-U9)**, and as a last resort, bibs may be worn if;

the home and away outfield kits clash to the extent that the referee requires one team to change, or goalkeeper tops are deemed (by the referee) to be insufficiently different to outfield players,

In all cases all bibs worn by players/goalkeepers must be uniquely numbered.

Bibs may not be worn in any matches in the **Under 11 age group or above.**

Other Rules

Where applicable, and not inconsistent with the foregoing Rules of the Competition, the Rules of the Hampshire Football Association Ltd shall apply and be given effect to as if here inserted.



RULES OF THE NORTH EAST HAMPSHIRE YOUTH LEAGUE LEAGUE CUPS

1. NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

Each season there will be a League Cup Competition for each age group (except U7-U11 age groups who will play in festivals as organised by the league in accordance with FA & Hampshire FA Membership Rules).

2. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

- (A) All players of competing teams must be properly registered in accordance with League Rule 18. Any team contravening this Rule will forfeit the tie.
- (B) Any player who has played in the League Cup Competition for one team or Club is ineligible to represent another team or Club at any age group in the current season, except where the teams generally play on a different day. Any team contravening this Rule will forfeit the tie.
- (C) No player may play in the Semi-Final or Final unless they have played at least three League and/or Cup matches for that team in this League in the current season. A player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the 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.

3. ARRANGEMENT OF MATCHES

- (A) All matches, except the Final, shall be played on the ground of the first named Club on dates determined by the Management Committee.

In the event of any match being drawn at fulltime, 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) Matches abandoned through circumstances over which neither team has control shall be replayed.
- (C) For each team reaching a Final the Club may be required to purchase one hundred programmes which may be resold.

4. CLUB COLOURS

League Rule 19 shall apply except that in the event of a colour clash both teams will change.

5. REFEREES

League Rule 23 shall apply with the following additions:

- i) The League shall appoint a Referee and, where possible, two neutral Assistant Referees for the Semi-Final and Final.
- ii) If neutral Assistant Referees are appointed in any of the matches, except the Final, the fees of the three officials shall be shared equally by both Clubs.

6. TROPHIES

The winners of each age group will receive a cup or shield and the conditions governing this trophy are as set out in League Rule 13.

Players of both teams reaching the Final will receive individual trophies, to a maximum of the number of the players constituting a full team plus the maximum number of permitted substitutes plus the manager. Additional trophies may be purchased from the League using the form provided for this purpose.

The match officials appointed to the Final will each receive a trophy and the appropriate match fee.

7. LEAGUE RULES

- (A) In addition to the League Rules already referred to above Rules 6, 7, 20, and 21 will apply in all Cup Competitions.

- (B) Where an age group contains more than 16 teams the Management Committee, or its appointed Sub Committee, shall have the discretion to exempt teams in Divisions Premier and 1 from the early rounds of the draw.
- (C) The Competition shall be managed by the Management Committee whose decisions on all matters including any not provided for in these Rules shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to the Board of Appeal in accordance with Rule 7.



RULES OF

THE NORTH EAST HAMPSHIRE YOUTH LEAGUE

ASH CHALLENGE TROPHY

1. NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

At the discretion of the Executive Committee there may be a supplementary Competition called the Ash Challenge Trophy. The organisation of this Competition will be arranged in conjunction with the Divisional Secretaries. Each age group shall be divided into groups as required by draw.

2. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

- (D) All players of competing teams must be properly registered in accordance with League Rule 18. Any team contravening this Rule will forfeit the tie.
- (E) Any player who has played in the Ash Challenge Trophy for one team or Club is ineligible to represent another team or Club at any age group in the current season, except where the teams generally play on a different day. Any team contravening this Rule will forfeit the match.
- (F) No player may play in the Semi-Final or Final unless they have played at least three League and/or Cup matches for that team in this League in the current season. A player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the 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.

3. ARRANGEMENT OF MATCHES

- (A) All teams in each group will play each other once, the home and away team again being decided by draw.
- (B) Three points will be awarded for a win and one point for a draw. In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points Team rankings may be determined by deciding match(es) played under conditions determined by the Management Committee, or the position shared..
- (C) In the Semi-Finals the winner of Group 1 will play the runner-up of Group 2 and the runner-up of Group 1 will play the winner of Group 2. If more than two groups are required the format of the Semi-Finals will be decided by the appropriate Divisional Secretary.
- (D) If the result at full time in either the Semi-Final or Final is a draw, the match will be decided on penalty kicks as laid down in the current edition of the Laws of Association Football a Guide for Players and Referees.
- (E) League Rule 21 will apply for reporting results.
- (F) Matches abandoned through circumstances over which neither team has control shall be replayed.

4. CLUB COLOURS

League Rule 19 shall apply except that in the event of a colour clash in the Semi-Final and Final both teams will change

5. REFEREES

League Rule 23 shall apply with the following additions:

- i) The League shall appoint a Referee and, where possible, two neutral Assistant Referees for the Semi-Final and Final.
- ii) If neutral Assistant Referees are appointed in any of the ties, except the Final, the fees of the three officials shall be shared equally by both Clubs.

6. TROPHIES

The winners of each age group will receive a cup or shield and the conditions governing this trophy are as set out in League Rule 13.

Players of both teams reaching the Final will receive individual trophies, to a maximum of the number of the players constituting a full team plus the maximum number of permitted substitutes plus the manager. Additional trophies may be purchased from the League using the form provided for this purpose.

The match officials appointed to the Final will each receive a trophy and the appropriate match fee.

7. LEAGUE RULES

- (A) In addition to the League Rules already referred to above Rules 6, 7, 20 and 21. will apply in all Trophy Competitions.
- (B) The Competition shall be managed by the Management Committee whose decisions on all matters including any not provided for in these Rules shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to the Board of Appeal in accordance with Rule 7.



PLAYING RULES OF THE NORTH EAST HAMPSHIRE YOUTH LEAGUE "MINI SOCCER" AGE GROUPS

1. LEAGUE RULES

- (A) League Rules, and those of the Football Association as published in the Laws of Mini Soccer, will apply except where otherwise expressly varied.
- (B) The Competition shall be managed by the Management Committee whose decisions on all matters including any not provided for in these Rules shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to the Board of Appeal in accordance with League Rule 7.

2. PLAYING RULE AMENDMENTS

Games will be played by two teams:

Under 7s and Under 8s consisting of not more than five players including the goalkeeper, which will be on a friendly basis in accordance with FA guidelines.

Under 9s and Under 10s consisting of not more than seven players including the goalkeeper, which will be on a development basis in accordance with FA guidelines.

N B: Each team must not have a match day squad greater than double the size of the team per age.

- (A) The recommended dimensions of the field of play are:

	Under 7s/8s	Under 9s/10s
Pitch Length	Min 30 yards. Max 50 yards.	Min 50 yards. Max 60 yards.
Pitch Width	Min 20 yards. Max 30 yards.	Min 30 yards. Max 40 yards.

- (B) The minimum number of players required to constitute a team are:

FORMAT	MINIMUM NUMBER
5v5	4
7v7	5

In the interest of sportsmanship and fair play teams should commence with the same number of players



PLAYING RULES OF THE NORTH EAST HAMPSHIRE YOUTH LEAGUE "9 v 9 FOOTBALL"

1. LEAGUE RULES

- (A) League Rules, and those of the Football Association as published will apply except where otherwise expressly varied.
- (B) The Competition shall be managed by the Management Committee whose decisions on all matters including any not provided for in these Rules shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to the Board of Appeal in accordance with Rule 7.

2. PLAYING RULE AMENDMENTS

- (A) Games will be played by two teams consisting of not more than nine players including the goalkeeper.
 - Under 11s consisting of not more than nine players including the goalkeeper, which will be on a development basis in accordance with FA guidelines.
 - Under 12s consisting of not more than nine players including the goalkeeper, which will be on a competitive basis.
 - N B: Each team must not have a match day squad greater than fourteen with repeat substitutions allowed.
- (B) The dimensions of the field of play are 70 to 85 yards long by 45 to 55 yards wide (recommended 80 yards long by 50 yards wide) with goals either 21 feet wide by 7 feet high or 16 feet wide thrby 7 feet high.
- (C) The duration of play shall be a maximum of 30 minutes each way. For Under 12s and below the timings are as listed in League rule 20(B).

In all other respects the Laws of Association Football for 11-a-side apply.



Festival Competition Rules

- (A) Festival Competitions” may be held for the Under 8 to Under 11 age groups. There may be two Festival Competitions per age group per season “
- (B) Leagues and Clubs may collect the results of their Festival Competition fixtures, and may publish the result of the all fixtures of any Festival Competition. of the Final only and previous round
- (C) The Management Committee shall give consideration to hold the Cup, Plate, Shield, Vase, Bowl Salver, Elite Cup, Invicta Cup and other sub Festival Competitions in an age group, subject to Team numbers in each age group.
- (D) Teams shall not be charged a fee to participate in the Festival Competition.
- (E) The Officers and Management Committee of the Festival Competition shall be as for the League Competition.
- (F) All Festival Competitions may take either a straight knockout or a group stage followed by knockout stages.
 - (i) In group stages, team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win. If a match is drawn, each team will receive one point and a penalty competition as laid down in IFAB rules will take place with the winning team receiving an extra point.
 - (ii) For knockout Festival Competition matches, if the scores at full time are level, the match will be decided on penalty kicks as laid down in the current edition of the Laws of Association Football a Guide for Players and Referees.
- (G) The Under 8 Age Festival Competitions will be played over a maximum period of two (2) weeks. Matches will be a duration of two periods of no more than 20 minutes each.
- (H) The Under 9 & Under 10 Festival Competitions will be played over a be played over a maximum period of four (4) weeks. Matches will be a duration of two periods of 25 minutes each.
- (I) The Under 11 Festival Competitions will be played over a be played over a maximum period of six (6) weeks. Matches will be a duration of two periods of 30 minutes each.
- (J) All festival matches which are not played on the scheduled date will be reviewed by the Management committee. Due to the timescale involved, the league and/or teams may agree to schedule postponed games to be rescheduled for a date on which they do not already have a match but this must be prior to the last scheduled group games for that festival. If the match is not rescheduled, the following will apply:
 - a) In the event of a Competition Match not being played owing to causes over which neither Club has control, the league may declare the result as a draw with one point awarded to each team but no goals awarded.
 - b) In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement, the league may declare the result as walkover with three points awarded the points to the opposition team but no goals awarded ,
- (K) The provisions of the League Rule 18 shall govern the qualification of players, except that any player transferred from one (1) Team to another shall not be eligible to play for their new Team if they have played for their former Team during a particular Festival Competition.
- (L) Unless otherwise decided by the Management Committee the knockout matches ties shall be played at the venues of the first named.
- (M) League Rule 19 shall apply except that in the event of a colour clash in a knock out match both teams will change
- (N) Mementoes shall be presented to the winning Team, and Runners-up of the Finals.
- (O) Except where otherwise specified in the foregoing, the Competition shall be subject to the Rules of the League and matches played in conformity therewith.



RULES OF NORTH EAST HAMPSHIRE YOUTH LEAGUE Zingari & Wellesley Divisions

1. NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

The Matchday Application limitation does not allow 'Other Fixture' to show though as fixtures.

The League needs to provide Matches throughout the season when divisions are unequal in size.

The League has to provide 'seeding' games at the begin of the season, particularly when teams are changing format, (5v5, 7v7, 9v9, & 11v11), it has been found that it is also needed at Under14 and Under15.

The organisation of the competition will be arranged in conjunction with the divisional Secretaries.

The games will be player as development games. Points will be awarded. The competition will be decided on a points per game bases

2. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

All players competing teams must be properly registered in accordance with League Rule 8. Any team contravening this will forfeit the tie.

3. Arrangement FOR Matches

A. Three points may be awarded for a win, one point for a draw. Being equal on points ranking may be determined by a deciding match(es) played under conditions determined by the management committee.

B. League Rule 21 will apply for reporting results

4. CLUB COLOURS

League Rule 19 shall apply.

5. THOPHIES

The team with the best points per game may receive a trophy. There will be no player mementos.

6. LEAGUE RULES

the competition shall be managed by the management committee whose decisions on all matters including any not provided for in these roles shall be binding.