

South Surrey Youth Football League Rules Season 2022/23 Draft V2



DEFINITIONS

1. LIST OF DEFINITIONS

(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 South Surrey Youth Football League.

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

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

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

"Fees Tariff" means a list of fees approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any matters for which fees are payable under the Rules, 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 Surrey County Football Association Limited.

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

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“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

2. COMPETITION NAME AND CONSTITUTION

(A) The Competition will be known as South Surrey Youth Football 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 60 Clubs, or 350 Teams approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

(C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be Surrey and locations close to Surrey in neighboring counties within a core catchment area of 18 miles radius or 45 minutes driving time from Ewhurst recreation ground. Applications from outside the core catchment may still be considered and shall be reviewed by the Management Committee pending suitability to progress to a membership vote on acceptance under Rule 4(a) which applies due diligence to all applications regardless of location. Out of catchment applications shall be considered by team on a case-by-case basis to consider the benefit of acceptance to the Competition, Clubs and Teams including those applying, and the practicality e.g. longer travelling distances may be acceptable for older youth football fixtures but not for young children playing shorter mini soccer fixtures.

(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.

(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.

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- (I) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including, but not limited to, England Football Accredited and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (J) All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children 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 an 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.

3. CLUB NAME

- (A) 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.

4. ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

- (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 by the registration closure date published annually by the League 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.

The Management Committee may delay the collection of entry fees and annual subscriptions until invoiced by the Competition as a step in the overall registration process. If payment is delayed Clubs/Teams will be required to pay entry fees/subscriptions by a 'Due Date' determined and communicated by the Management Committee to avoid late payment fees as set out in the fees tariff.

Applications for admission to the Competition shall in the first instance be considered for suitability by the Management Committee. At the discretion of the voting members present applications, of which due notice has been given, may then be received, and accepted or rejected by majority vote at the AGM or a Special General Meeting or on a date agreed by the Management Committee.

Admission to the Competition at other times is covered under POWERS OF MANAGEMENT section 6(K).

- (B) The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club and shall be payable on or before the 'Due Date' as set by the Management Committee in each year.
- (C) Clubs may be required to pay a Deposit as set out in the Fees Tariff which shall be returned to the Club on leaving the Competition or earlier subject to Management Committee discretion, provided they have fulfilled their fixtures, are not in debt to the competition, and have complied with all orders of the Management Committee.
- (D) A Club shall not participate further in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription, and Deposit (if required) have been paid, provided it has been invoiced and the Due Date has passed.
- (E) If requested by the Competition, Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by the 'Club Registration Date' set by the Competition 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.

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- (G) The Competition shall not usually charge clubs one-off administrative fees for specific tasks that are expected during the normal running of the Competition. However, the Competition at the discretion of the Management Committee may charge a reasonable cost to a club for excessive administration caused due to the actions of the Club or its member/s as set out in the fees tariff.

5. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

- (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and 0 members who shall all be elected at the AGM.
- (B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than 14 days before the AGM 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 member Clubs, not later than 14 days before the AGM 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.

6. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

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

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- (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) 33% 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, and at all other times during the season if a vacancy exists that is feasible to fill.
- (L) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

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7. PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

- (A) (i) All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.
- (ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the Competition Match.
- (B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within 7 days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.
- (C) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.
- (D) All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.
- (i) All parties must have received 14 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
- (ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should forward a deposit of £10 and indicate such when forwarding the written response.
- (E) The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.
- (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.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- (A) The AGM shall be held not later than 1st July in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 3 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.

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- (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 Chair 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 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.

9. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- (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 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).

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10. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

(A) 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 [] 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 FA 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.

11. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

- (A) No Rule
- (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.

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

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

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13. TROPHY

- (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 [] 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 []. 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) Rule 13(A) applies if the competition decides to present trophies owned by the Competition that are to be returned annually.

14. ALTERATION TO RULES

- (A) Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at an 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 and approved by the Sanctioning Authority and the FA.
- Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 28 days prior to the AGM in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 14 days prior to the AGM and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 7 days prior to the AGM. 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 a majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting are in favor.
- 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. If this is not possible it should be submitted at the earliest opportunity thereafter, subject to the timetable for the Sanctioning Authority's league affiliation and sanctioning process. If any proposed rule changes agreed at the AGM are subsequently rejected or revised by the Sanctioning Authority the Management Committee shall convene a Special General Meeting to amend the rules considering the decision.

15. FINANCE

- (A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
- (B) All expenditure in excess of £50 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques or online transactions 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.

16. INSURANCE

- (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

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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.

17. DISSOLUTION

- (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.

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MATCH RELATED RULES

18. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

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

(i) Registered through the FA Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition.

For any players registered on the day of a match, a Club Officer must email the Competition with details of the registration 24 hours prior to the scheduled kick off time in order for the player to be eligible to play in that match. The Player shall not play again in any subsequent match in the Competition until the Club has registered the player through The FA Player Registration system and is in possession of the approval from the Competition.

24 hours' notice is required by the Competition to approve a Player registration either in the Player Registration System (Full registration) or by email (Temporary registration).

Emergency registration i.e. within 24 hours' notice, may be requested with approval subject to Management Committee discretion.

(ii) No rule

(iii) 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.

(iv) For Clubs registering Players under Rule 18 (A) (ii) registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition (point not applicable to this Competition). For Clubs registering Players via the Player Registration System, Clubs must access the Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process. The registration document must incorporate a current (within 2 years) passport-size photograph of the Player seeking registration together with confirmation that the Player's proof of date of birth has been checked by the Club and is accurate. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(v) When a Club submits a player registration to the Competition, they are confirming the player registration requirements herein have been met. Clubs must make the original registration information they are holding available to the Competition for inspection on request.

(vi) Teams must take a current squad list produced from the Player Registration System to all competition fixtures to be shared with and checked by the opposition. Failure to do so may result in ineligible player and/or registration irregularity charges if a complaint is made. Photographs are mandatory on the squad list. Squad lists may be produced at the start of the season but must be refreshed if and when changes are made. The eligibility of a temporary transferred Player to participate in a match must be shown by also sharing and checking the squad list for the Player's usual team to show their temporary transfer qualification in accordance with Rule 18J (ii) (vi).

(vii) The Management Committee may check the registration details/status of a player to confirm eligibility for a fixture. Clubs/Teams are required to co-operate and assist in this process; this may include providing additional registration information and documentary evidence about the player to the Management Committee. Clubs/Teams are also required to participate in player eligibility spot checks that may be conducted by the Competition from time to time and co-operate in the exchange of player names and confirmation of identity to the opposing Team at a fixture, supported through the exchange of Player Registration System squad lists.

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- (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) Players registered with a Premier League or Football League Academy under the Elite Player Performance Plan contained within Youth Development Rules will not be permitted to play in this Competition. Details of the Youth Development Rules are published on The FA website. A Player registered with a FA Girls' Regional Talent Club may play in this Competition subject to the FA Programme for Excellence (Female) Regulations.
- (iii) Each Team must have the following number of Players registered 7 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.

- (iv) The maximum registered squad sizes for each format in the competition are as follows:

FORMAT	MAX NUMBER	HOW REGISTERED
5v5 (U7/U8)	Unlimited	Club or Team Level – Policy to be decided by the Competition and applied to Player Registration approvals/eligibility.
7v7 (U9/U10) (U12 girls)	Unlimited	Club or Team Level – Policy to be decided by the Competition and applied to Player Registration approvals/eligibility.
9v9 (U11)	Unlimited	Club or Team Level – Policy to be decided by the Competition and applied to Player Registration approvals/eligibility.
9v9 (U12)	Unlimited	Team Level for published competitive Divisions - Eligible Players may only be registered to play for one Club Team in the Competition, subject to the permanent or temporary transfer rules. Club or Team Level for unpublished non-competitive divisions - Policy to be decided by the Competition and applied to Player Registration approvals/eligibility.
11v11 (U13/U14/ U15/U16/U18)	Unlimited	Team Level – Eligible Players may only be registered to play for one Club Team in the Competition, subject to the permanent or temporary transfer rules

Club level registration for development age groups U7-U11 is a variation to the Standard Code rule 18J(i) that requires Team Level registration. U7-U11 Players submitted to the Competition in the Player Registration System to play for more than one Team in the same Competition age group will be registered, but if the

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incumbent policy is Team Level registration, they will only be eligible to play for the highest-ranking Team for which they are registered. This is considered their primary Team and all others are considered secondary Teams that they may be eligible for if Club Level registration is permitted. Match day squad sizes are covered in rule 20(F).

(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 his or her 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 his or her 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 playing in mixed competitions 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. 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 (Recommended)		Maximum Pitch Sizes (Recommended)		Recommended Goal Sizes in feet	Ball Size
			Yards	Metres	Yards	Metres		
6	Under 7	5v5	30x20	27.45x18.3	40x30	36.3x27.45	12x6	3
	Under 8		30x20	27.45x18.3	40x30	36.3x27.45	12x6	3
7	Under 8	5v5	30x20	27.45x18.3	40x30	36.3x27.45	12x6	3
	Under 9	7v7	50x30	45.75x27.45	60x40	54.9x36.6	12x6	3
8	Under 9	7v7	50x30	45.75x27.45	60x40	54.9x36.6	12x6	3
	Under 10		50x30	45.75x27.45	60x40	54.9x36.6	12x6	3
9	Under 10	7v7	50x30	45.75x27.45	60x40	54.9x36.6	12x6	3
	Under 11	9v9	70x40	64x36.6	80x50	73.15x45.75	16x7	4
10	Under 11	9v9	70x40	64x36.6	80x50	73.15x45.75	16x7	4
	Under 12		70x40	64x36.6	80x50	73.15x45.75	16x7	4
11	Under 12	9v9	70x40	64x36.6	80x50	73.15x45.75	16x7	4
	Under 13	11v11	90x50	82.3x45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
12	Under 13	11v11	90x50	82.3x45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
	Under 14		90x50	82.3x45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
13	Under 14	11v11	90x50	82.3x45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
	Under 15		90x50	82.3x45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
14	Under 15	11v11	90x50	82.3x45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
	Under 16		90x50	82.3x45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
15	Under 16	11v11	90x50	82.3x45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
	Under 17		100x50	91.44x45.75	130x100	118.87x91.44	24x8	5

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	Under 18		100x50	91.44x45.75	130x100	118.87x91.44	24x8	5
16	Under 17	11v11	100x50	91.44x45.75	130x100	118.87x91.44	24x8	5
	Under 18		100x50	91.44x45.75	130x100	118.87x91.44	24x8	5
	Open Age		100x50	91.44x45.75	130x100	118.87x91.44	24x8	5
17	Under 18	11v11	100x50	91.44x45.75	130x100	118.87x91.44	24x8	5
	Open Age		100x50	91.44x45.75	130x100	118.87x91.44	24x8	5

(D) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered, if applicable. This Competition combines Team Entry & Player Registration Fees into a single Team Entry Fee.

(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 signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club priority of registration shall decide for which Club the Player shall be registered. The 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 Club 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 or where the competition adopt rule 18.P.
- (iii) Submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through the Player Registration System for registration that the Player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

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

(G) (i) The Management Committee shall have 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 also 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.

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(iv) For a Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18(G)(iii) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

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

(H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C when a Club wishes to register a Player who is already registered with another Club it shall submit a transfer form (in a format as determined by the Competition) to the Competition accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fees Tariff. Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the Club for which the Player is registered. Should this Club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the Player concerned within 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days of receipt of the notification, 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. Transfers in this competition are managed through the Player Registration System.

(I) A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 31st March except by special permission of the Management Committee.

(J) (i) 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 unless registration at a Club level is permitted by the Competition for development age groups as covered under Rule 18(B)(iv). A Player so registered will be allowed to play for his Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 18(C).

(ii) Additionally, a player so registered may be temporarily transferred to play in a match for another team within his/her club and within the player's permitted age group/s under Rule 18C. Such transfers are permitted to enable a fixture to go ahead that would otherwise be postponed due to an insufficient number of registered players being available, and may only be made providing the following conditions are met:

- i) no more than 3 players in total from all sources may be transferred in any match;
- ii) the team's squad for the match including temporarily transferred players does not exceed playing format + 1 in total e.g., 12 players for an 11v11 match;
- iii) all players must play most of their matches during the season for their registered team;
- iv) no available player registered for the team is deliberately left out to make space for a temporarily transferred player;
- v) that such transfer does not contravene Rule 18(L) below;
- vi) evidence of a player's eligibility to play under a temporary transfer is made available to the opposition on a Player Registration System squad list on the day of the match;
- vii) Temporary transfers are self-managed by the transferring team/s and do not have to be advised to the league but must be advised to the opposition manager on match day or sooner if practicable.

Ineligible player rules set out under section 18 (N) may apply if any of these conditions are not met.

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(K) A register containing the names of all Players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Competition (Registrations) 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 his status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a Club in another Competition his registration as a Non-Contract Player will 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, final, promotion or relegation deciding Competition match (as specified in Rule 22(A) or as determined by the Management Committee) unless the Player has played 2 Competition matches for that Team in the current Playing Season or is given special permission to play at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(M) A Team shall not include more than 11 Players who have taken part in 1 or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season unless a period of 21 days has elapsed since they last played. For the purpose of this Rule a senior competition is any open age Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(N)(i) Subject to Rule 18(N)(ii), any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a 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;
- (b) Levy penalty points against the Club in default; or
- (c) Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

The following Clause applies to Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary education:

(O) (i) Priority must be given at all times to school 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 the head teachers (except for Sunday league Competitions).

(iv) A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August in a Playing Season shall not be permitted to play in a Competition Match during that Playing Season where any other Player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.

(P) If a Club wishes to cancel a Player's registration within the Competition, it must make a request via The FA's electronic player registration system giving the reasons for the request. The Competition may either approve or decline the request. If a Player's registration is cancelled, he/she will not be eligible to play in the Competition until they are properly re-registered for a period of 1 day from the date of cancellation.

19. CLUB COLOURS

(A) Every Team must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Competition (Registrations) Secretary by the 'Team Registration Date' 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 other Players and the Match Officials.

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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 2 days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the Home Team shall make the change. Bibs are permitted in this Competition to resolve a colour clash. 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. This clause is subject to Management Committee discretion considering mitigating circumstances e.g., if time is needed to transition kit to the new rule, re-using kit is a practical/economic solution, bibs are required to avoid a colour clash etc. but Teams must aim to wear numbered shirts (preferably different numbers) in all matches if possible. Primarily this rule aims to stop the use of unnumbered shirts which can often be the cause of Referee/Opponent complaints and failure to correctly identify Players.

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

(A) All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board or, for Mini-Soccer, and 9v9 football, the Rules as set down by the FA. Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their Grounds in a playable condition. All Competition Matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the home Team a match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.

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

Football Turf Pitches (3G Artificial Pitches) are allowed in this Competition provided they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's register of Football Turf Pitches. All Football Turf Pitches used must be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every 3 years and the results passed to the FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.

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

Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are ideally removed for affiliated matches but if they cannot be removed then discretion is given to the match official to restart the match in accordance with the laws of the game.

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 subject to any safe variation covered in the table below or under Rule 20 (I).

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.

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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 (SSYFL normal duration)	10	20 (SSYFL normal duration)	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 (SSYFL normal duration)	20	25 (SSYFL normal duration)	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 (SSYFL normal duration)	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 (SSYFL normal duration)	80 (if applicable)	120	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 13 and Under 14	N/A	N/A	25	35 (SSYFL normal duration)	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 15 and Under 16	N/A	N/A	25	40 (SSYFL normal duration)	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 17 and Under 18	N/A	N/A	25	45 (SSYFL normal duration)	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 both as decided by the age groups as a safe variation under rule 20(I).

Normal playing durations for SSYFL Competition fixtures (complying with the FA maximums) are also included in the table, and safe variations may be considered in accordance with rule 20(I).

No extra time shall be played in Cup fixtures, tied results are to be settled on penalties, alternate kicks, 5 each, then sudden death.

This Competition also allows, and may order if the schedule requires, a Double Header fixture to be played (i.e. two separate matches of reduced duration played between the same teams as part of the same fixture), or a dual Cup & League fixture i.e. where the normal time result is used to progress both elements of Competition.

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 match with written notification given to the Competition at least 1 day prior if the change is substantially different from the normal Competition kick-off times.

For 2022/23 season, the Competition will be a Saturday morning competition with normal kick-off times between 9.30 and 12.00 set by the home team. Saturdays at the start of, end of, or during state school holidays

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shall be considered normal fixture days if designated as such by the Management Committee to fulfil the demands of the Competition schedule. However, alternative kick-off times will be permitted within a framework agreed by the Members at the AGM or by the Management Committee, provided both home and away teams agree, except for the final games of the season, where the schedule will be arranged by the Fixtures Secretary and may only be amended or devolved to the teams with the approval of the Fixtures Secretary.

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

The home Team must provide goal nets, 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 match with the consent of the Competition Fixtures 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 match i.e., midnight Sunday before the revised fixture (unless otherwise mutually agreed).

Fixtures can be set by the Competition Fixtures Secretary and/or the Age Group Coordinators who may be co-opted as Fixture Secretaries for the purpose of arranging matches for their Age Group. Any change to fixture dates proposed solely between teams must also be agreed with the Age Group Coordinator acting as Fixture Secretary or the Competition Fixtures Secretary.

- (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 the secretary of the opposing Club at least 2 clear days prior to the playing of the match (Wednesday midnight for Saturday) or contact the Club with an explanation for any delay and a timescale to provide the details. 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.

Teams in all age groups are expected to fulfil a fixture if they have at least the minimum Player numbers available. For development and trophy fixtures u7 to u11, Teams are required to level up Player numbers if their opponent is short but have at least the minimum number available to play the fixture. For competitive fixtures U12 to U18 opposition Teams are encouraged to level up Player numbers. This rule is intended to incentivise Teams to play their fixtures as scheduled rather than postpone due to shortage of Players which would then invoke rule 20E. The use of this rule will be monitored by the Competition to ensure shortage of

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players does not become a frequent occurrence for any Team and is not manipulated to the benefit of any Team.

- (E)(i) In Competitions where points are awarded, home and away matches shall be played unless varied by the Competition format (e.g. if only one fixture against an opponent). 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 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 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. Participating Teams are encouraged to switch venues of their own accord by agreement to enable a fixture to be played if it would otherwise be postponed. Failure to explore this option and/or accept a viable venue switch may be taken into account by the Management Committee when determining who is in default for a postponement that might otherwise have been avoided.
- (ii) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Competition Fixtures Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary (if one is appointed), the Fixtures secretary and/or Manager of the opposing Club/Team, and the Match Officials. Informing the opposition is a mandatory requirement and responsibility of the postponing team and confirmation that this has been done must be provided to the Competition Fixtures Secretary without delay.
- (iii) In the event of a Competition Match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, or one club has reasonably requested, 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 Competition Fixtures Secretary within 7 days the Management Committee shall have the power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (iii.a) The Management Committee and member Clubs aim to support a cooperative approach to postponement requests and will aim to re-schedule matches under rule 20E(iii) if possible rather than invoking rule 20E(i) failing to keep an engagement, subject to the demands of the competition schedule. Rule 20E(i) may still be invoked if, in the opinion of the Management Committee, appropriate notice has not been given by the postponing team, and/or the frequency of postponement requests from the same team is excessive, and/or the postponement request is unreasonable or frivolous, and/or the postponement may have been reasonably prevented with e.g. a switch in venue, and or the fixture cannot be rearranged in the time available to complete the season.
- (iii.b) Rule 20E(i) may also be applied retrospectively if a re-arranged match is not played for whatever reason, in which case the cause of the original postponement shall be considered in the first instance in any decision made.
- (iii.c) The Competition shall publish a postponement policy and processes to help guide the application of rules 20E(i) to 20E(iii.b) to support the aims set out in 20E(iii.a) but the Management Committee retains the power to apply the standard rules as written to individual postponement situations. Clubs can challenge the decision as to whether a postponement should be determined under rule 20E(i) or 20E(iii) using the complaint and appeal processes set out in Rule 7.
- (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

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does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the 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 match must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.
- (F) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any match in this Competition. This part of the rule applies to SSYFL in 2022/23 season. This Competition does allow return substitutes:

For Under 11s - Under 18s – up to 4 may be selected from 4 substitute Players in 9v9 fixtures and up to 5 may be selected from 5 substitute Players in 11v11 fixtures. 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. The following match day squad maximum sizes are permitted in SSYFL Youth Football unless otherwise agreed by the opposing Team Managers, Match Officials, and Competition (Fixtures) Secretary in special circumstances on a match-by-match basis:

9v9 Format – 13 (i.e. 4 substitutes)

11v11 Format – 16 (i.e. 5 substitutes)

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

The following match day squad maximum sizes are permitted in SSYFL Mini-Soccer unless otherwise agreed by the opposing Team Managers, Match Officials, and Competition (Fixtures) Secretary in special circumstances on a match-by-match basis:

5v5 Format – 10 (i.e. 5 substitutes)

7v7 Format – 14 (i.e. 7 substitutes)

This rule also applies to u11-U18 age groups playing 5v5 or 7v7 format.

In Youth Football only, the referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than 5 minutes before the start of the match and a Player not so named may not take part in the match.

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.

- (G) The half time interval shall normally 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.
- (H) The Teams taking part in Under 7s to Under 11 or Youth Football shall identify a Team captain who may 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.

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- (I) This Competition supports Team managers and Referees considering safe variations to the league playing conditions in circumstances where it is considered beneficial to the playing experience and development of the participants e.g. 4 quarters played with 5-minute intervals, splitting of fixtures into a shorter duration league game with a friendly experimental game to follow. Any variations are only permitted by mutual agreement of the teams and referee, however, for competitive matches affecting the league table the league must be informed where playing conditions have been varied.
- (J) The formats below are those provided by the league in the 2022/23 season as the default. In each case this is the maximum format permitted but may be subject to safe variation as permitted under Rule 20(i).

U7/U8 – 5v5

U9/U10 and U11/U12 Girls – 7v7

U11/U12 – 9v9

U13/U18 – 11v11

Individual age group competition structures, divisions, and constitution will be determined by the Management Committee in discussion with the participating Clubs and Teams.

Age group divisions may be designated as mixed gender or all female with some age groups having both mixed and all female divisions.

- (K) Prior to and/or after each match the participating teams and officials shall conduct the 'Respect' handshake and/or participating teams to offer 'three cheers' and handshakes to the opposing team after the match.
- (L) Each home club shall arrange 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 both sides of the pitch. Each 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.

Rules (K) and (L) may be subject to immediate revision or suspension for health and safety reasons without AGM/SGM approval if instructed by the Sanctioning Authority or on other official advice.

21. REPORTING RESULTS

- (A) The Competition Fixtures Secretary must receive within 2 days of the date played (by midnight Monday after a Saturday match), the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner if required to do so by the Competition. If required by the Management Committee, this must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) Failure to do so will incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (B) Both Clubs shall SMS or update via the FA MatchDay App the result of each match to FA Full-Time within 2 days (by midnight Monday after a Saturday match) as directed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (C) If required by the Management Committee, the match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Club, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (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.

22. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

- (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

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the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Competition Matches must not be played for double points (Double Header fixtures are defined as two separate matches).

A single fixture result may be used in more than one part of the Competition to relieve the schedule or support concurrent divisions involving the same teams if decided by the Competition Secretary in advance and communicated to the teams before the fixture is played e.g. result used for both league and cup fixtures.

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.

In this Competition's 2022/23 season, in the event of two or more teams being equal on points within a competition stage, team rankings will be decided by:

(i) the results of the match(es) already played between the two sides during the competition stage as follows:

- (a) Points;
- (b) Goal difference;
- (c) Goals scored

(ii) If appropriate, deciding match(es) to be played under conditions determined by the Management Committee.

(iii) Other means appropriate to the competition format at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(B) No Rule

(C) No Rule

(D) In the event of a Team not completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing Season or on withdrawing from the competition, all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Team may be expunged from the Competition table. For the purposes of this a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee. Alternatively, points from completed fixtures may be retained and/or un-played matches may be awarded at the discretion of the Management Committee if this achieves the same competition outcome as expunging points and is fair and equitable to all Teams affected by the un-played fixtures or withdrawal.

(E) In the event of a team not fulfilling a scheduled fixture and failing to rearrange that fixture, the Management Committee may award either a no-score draw, a no-score win, or declare the fixture void depending on the individual circumstances. The Management Committee may also at their discretion enforce a fine and/or other penalty against the team if they are deemed to be avoiding normal competition fixtures e.g. against specific opponents.

In the event that such an awarded result has a material effect on the outcome of final league position, then the management committee may expunge the result so awarded and if appropriate also expunge any corresponding fixture/s for other team/s involved to determine league position.

It is recognised the awarding of matches or expunging of results to a formula may not always result in a fair outcome for all parties when all circumstances are considered, the management committee therefore retains the right to determine final league position in a fair manner which may include the sharing of positions if considered appropriate.

23. REFEREES

(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. In this Competition, referees shall be arranged by the home team from their own list of registered referees. The Competition may be able to assist in providing referee details from the Sanctioning Authority list of registered referees for the team to contact and appoint. If help is required, this can be requested from the League Referees Secretary up to 48 hours before the match using the referee enquiry form on the League website to allow sufficient time for a contact list to be provided.

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- (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 open age competition and individuals under the age of 14 must not participate either as a Referee or Assistant Referee in any competition. Referees between the ages of 14 and 16 are only eligible to officiate in competitions where the players' age band is at least one year younger than the age of the Referee, for example. a 15-year-old Referee may only officiate in competitions where the age banding is 14 or younger.
- (C) Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee. Failure to 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 the decision shall be final subject to either in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, which must be accepted.
- (E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Association, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff inclusive of travel expenses.
Match Officials for all Competition League and Cup fixtures will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the home Club before/immediately after 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.
- (F) In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee plus expenses. 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 and expenses. Failure to comply with the Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (G) A referee not keeping his or her engagement and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Association with which he or she is registered.
- (H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by the FA/Competition, 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 on the prescribed form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.
- (I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Playing Season, shall submit a summary to the FA/County FA.

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SCHEDULE A

FEES TARIFF			
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE	NORMAL SSYFL FEE
4 (A)	TEAM ENTRY FEE	£50.00	See SSYFL Entry Fee Table Below.
4 (B)	CLUB ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£150.00	£75
4 (C)	DEPOSIT (If required)	£100.00	£75
7 (C), 7 (E)	PROTEST/APEAL FEES	£25	£10
18 (D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FORM	£10.00 (per Player)	£0. Inclusive with Team Entry Fee, See SSYFL Entry Fee Table Below.
18 (H)	TRANSFER FEE	£10.00	£0
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES (inclusive of travel) to be paid by home team for all Competition League and Cup fixtures	As agreed with Sanctioning Authority	£15 Mini Soccer U7-U10 £20 Youth Football U11-U12 £25 Youth Football U13-U14 £30 Youth Football U15-U16 £35 Youth Football U17-U18 £5 supplement U12-U18 Double Header
23 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	As agreed with Sanctioning Authority	£0 Competition finals/events set individually.

SSYFL TEAM ENTRY FEES			
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	AGE GROUP	SSYFL FEE
4 (A) / 18 (D)	ENTRY FEE / REGISTRATION FEE (incl. Unlimited Player registrations)	5v5 U7/U8	£75 incl. unlimited number of Teams & Players registered.
		7v7 U9/U10	£75 per team incl. unlimited Players registered per Team.
		9v9 U11/U12	£125.00 per team incl. unlimited Players registered per Team.
		11v11 U13/ U14/U15/U16/U17/U18	£125.00 per team incl. unlimited Players registered per Team.

SSYFL Team Entry fees may be varied or waived in special circumstances as determined by the Management Committee.

The fines listed in the table below are the maximum permitted and may not apply to the operation of this Competition or may be reduced or waived at the discretion of the Management Committee upon consideration of the offence and/or any mitigating circumstances.

FINES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2 (G)	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£100.00
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£100.00
2 (K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£100.00
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£30.00
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£100.00
4(E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM	£100.00

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5 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£25.00
6 (H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£100.00
6 (I)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	DOUBLE THE ORIGINAL FINE UP TO £100.00
8 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£100.00
9	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£100.00
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	£100.00
11 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£100.00
13 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£25.00
16(A)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100.00
16(B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100.00
18 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£40.00
18 (B)(iii)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE PLAYING SEASON COMMENCING	£25.00
18 (F)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£25.00
18 (G)(ii)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£100.00
18(M)	FIELDING MORE THAN THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS MATCHES	£100
18 (N)(i)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£100.00
18 (O)(i)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£50.00
19	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£10.00 (per shirt, up to an aggregate maximum of £30)
19	DELAYING KICK OFF TO DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£30
20(A)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT	£30.00
20 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£100.00
20 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£50.00
20 (D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£100.00
20 (E) (i) & (iii)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£100.00
20 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£10.00
21 (A) & 21 (C)	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£20.00
21 (B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£20.00
21(D)	PUBLISHING RESULTS/GRADING TABLES FOR FIXTURES INVOLVING U7S, U8S, U9S, U10S OR U11S	£50.00
23 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£25.00
23 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£25.00
23 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£25.00
23 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£25.00

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