

# THE DERBYSHIRE GIRLS AND LADIES FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

## COMPETITION RULES 2024-25



## YOUTH & MINI SOCCER RULES

## **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.

"Club Portal" means the system used by Clubs to affiliate teams as determined by The FA from time to time.

"Competition" means the Derbyshire Girls & Ladies 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. In addition, it also refers to any additional registration used by the Competition,

"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 Derbyshire 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.

"Virtual Meetings" means meetings held electronically.

"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 Derbyshire Girls & Ladies 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 90 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be Derbyshire and its immediately surrounding Counties.
- (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.

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.
- (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. A Club must immediately inform the Competition of the details of any fixture(s) in any other competition in which the Club has entered, for which written consent of the Management Committee has been obtained.
- (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 (where a Club has more than one Team in membership of the Competition) and shall be payable on or before the AGM in each year.
- (C) This rule is not applicable to this competition.
- (D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription, and Deposit (if required) have been paid.
- (E) Clubs must ensure that all its teams participating in the Competition are recorded as affiliated on the Club Portal for the forthcoming Playing Season by the following date August 7th. Clubs must advise the Competition Secretary in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority, 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 a minimum of 1 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 March 31st 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 March 31st 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 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.
- (l) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

### **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 4 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 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 £30 and indicate such when forwarding the written response.
- (E) The Management Committee shall also have the power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.
- (F) Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff), which may be forfeited in the event of the 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 grounds of unconstitutional conduct.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

8. (A) The AGM shall be held not later than July 1st in each year. At this meeting, the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 20 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) (i) 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.  
(ii) Any club that has submitted a valid application to join the Competition for the forthcoming season must have the opportunity to be put forward for membership and to have a vote taken on their membership application.
- (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 9.D)
- (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 an 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)

#### **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. From season 24-25 this document to be signed electronically through the DGLL Website prior to the AGM

"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 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 90 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.

#### **TROPHY**

- 13. (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/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

## **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 and approved by Sanctioning Authority and the FA.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by March 1st in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by March 31st and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by April 30<sup>th</sup>. 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 favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to the 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.

## **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 £500 shall be approved by the Management Committee.
- (C) The financial year of the Competition will end on May 31st.
- (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.
- (E) ALL payments to DGLL will be via Card Payment or BAC's transfer. No Cheques or Cash payments will be permitted.
- (F) Failure to pay fee invoices (all subscriptions, pitch fees, player registration fees, transfer fees etc.) but not including fines (dealt with under 6(I)) by the due date, will incur a £20 mandatory fine per invoice. Fixtures will be withdrawn where fees are 14 days overdue. Any fixtures cancelled in this way will be treated as an unfulfilled fixture and dealt with in accordance with Rule 20(E)(i). The default payment terms are 14 days from date of invoice, except where the League permits a longer period.

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

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

For any players registered on the day of a match, a Club Officer must email the Competition with details of the registration 3 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 Player Registration systems and is in possession of the approval from the Competition. A maximum of 2 Players may be registered in this manner.

or

2. signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink on a match day prior to playing which is countersigned by his/her parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club and witnessed by an Officer of the opposing Club and submitted to the Competition within two days (Sundays excluded) subsequent to the Competition Match. The Player shall not play again in a subsequent match in the Competition until the Club has registered the player through Player Registration Systems and is in possession of the approval from the Competition. A maximum of 2 Players may be registered in this manner. The registration document must incorporate emergency contact details of the Players' parents or guardians. These details must be available at matches and training events the Player attends within the management of the Club or Competition.

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 Systems but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via the Player Registration Systems, the registration will not be processed.

For Clubs registering Players under Rule 18 (A) 2 registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the 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 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.

- (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 or Tiers 1-4 of the Women's Pyramid 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 (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 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.

- (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	5
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	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	
	Under 18		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	
16	Under 17	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5
	Under 18		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	
	Open Age		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x	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 signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club in the competition the valid registration submitted first shall take precedence. 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: -

Play for more than one Team in the same age group in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.

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 adopts rule 18.P

Submit a signed registration form or 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 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(a) when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another club it shall submit a transfer form (in a format as determined by the Competition) to the Competition accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fees Tariff. Such a 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 5 days after receipt of such transfer.

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

- (I) A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after March 31st except by special permission of the Management Committee. 7v7 & 5v5 Teams may continue to register unattached players until the end of the season.
- (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 (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 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) This rule is 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:
- Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed.
  - Levy penalty points against the Club in default; and/or
  - 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 school and school organisations. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with 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.

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

If a Player's registration is cancelled, they will not be eligible to play in the Competition for a period of 1 day from the date of cancellation.

## **CLUB COLOURS**

19. Every team must register the colour and design of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 1<sup>st</sup> August who shall decide as to their suitability.  
Any team wishing to change the colours and/or design(s) of its shirt(s) and short(s) during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Management Committee in advance of making that change.
- 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 Guideto9v9Football.
- 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. 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. 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 focused 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 focused 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 focused 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 halves.

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 14 days prior. 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 (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 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, time of kick-off and kit colours (including goalkeeper) to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least 4 clear days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. The opposing Club must confirm receipt and give notice of its kit colours (including goalkeeper) at least 3 days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. If either is not provided, the relevant 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.

- (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 decide whether it should either

- a) Award the points from the competition Match in question to the Club's opponent (without the awarding of goals) OR
- b) Order the Competition Match to be rescheduled. The Management Committee shall also have the power to order the rescheduled Competition Match to be played on a neutral venue or on the ground of the opponent if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

In addition, the Management Committee may at its discretion order one or more of the following (if appropriate):

- a) impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff),
  - b) deduct points from the defaulting Club,
  - c) order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents.
- (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 (Fixtures) Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials.
- (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 to by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the (Fixtures) Secretary within 3 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.

- (F) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any Competition Match. Where a Competition does not allow return substitutes:

For Under 17s and Under 18s – a Club may name up to 5 substitute Players of whom not more than 5 may be used.

Where a Competition does allow return substitutes:

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.

In Youth Football only, the referee shall be informed of the names and 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 been 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.

The DGLL permits return substitutes in all competitions.

Other than for adverse weather conditions and/or emergencies no team may postpone a game within 28 days prior to the scheduled game. Each team will be allowed to nominate 3 dates, (known as "byes"), during the season that they do not want to play on. Any fixtures cancelled inside the 28 days will be treated as an unfulfilled fixture and dealt with in accordance with Rule 20(E)(i). Teams calling games off for emergencies shall provide the league secretary with written evidence within 7 days of the scheduled date of the game.

Postponements will only be actioned if submitted by the Team to the DGLL website in the prescribed manner via the League Website.

PERMISSION MAY BE GRANTED by the LEAGUE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE; however, approval is not guaranteed.

No games will be scheduled on the Saturday between Christmas Day and New Year's Day nor on those dates should they be a Saturday.

- (G) The half time interval shall be of 5 minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
- (H) The Teams taking part in Under 7s to Under 11 or 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 her teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Where a suspension imposed in relation to a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) upon a Club by The FA or Affiliated Association is not lifted, and/or the Club does not provide confirmation from The FA or Affiliated Association that such suspension is lifted to the Competition Secretary by 2 days before a fixture, that fixture will be treated as an unfulfilled fixture and dealt with in accordance with Rule 20(E)(i).

## REPORTING RESULTS

21. (A) The (Registration/Fixtures) Secretary must receive within 2 days of the date played, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) and also the referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

The Home Club/both Clubs shall use telephone/SMS/email/ FA Full Time / FA Matchday Portal as directed by the Competition to notify the result of each Competition Match to the Competition by 6pm on the day of the game, or the following day if the game was played in midweek. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff

- (B) 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.
- (C) 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.

- (B) Automatic promotion shall be applied for the first 2 Teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last 2 Teams in each division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(L).

(i) Should one or more Teams withdraw from any one division after the Playing Season has commenced an equal number of Teams to those withdrawing in that division shall not be automatically relegated.

- (ii) Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the Playing Season may be filled in any of the following ways:
    - (a) retention of otherwise relegated Team(s); or
    - (b) additional promotion of the next ranked Team(s) from the division below; or
    - (c) election
  - (iii) The last 1 Teams in the lowest division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of Rule 22 (B)(i) above.
  - (iv) Should either or both of the leading Teams in any of the divisions have a Team in the next higher division, promotion shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next highest Team or Teams in the division concerned.
  - (v) Should either or both of the relegated Teams in any of the divisions have a Team in the next lower division, relegation shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next lowest Team or Teams in the division concerned.
- (C) In addition to the Team(s) automatically promoted under Rule 22(B), a maximum of one further Team shall be promoted by virtue of being the winner of a play-off match or series of matches (the "Play-Offs). The eligibility criteria and format of the Play-Offs are as determined by the Management Committee

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. The League has a **no forfeit** policy, teams must complete their season, in the event of non-completion of a season the teams record will be disregarded for the purposes of determining champions, promotion and or relegation. A team not playing all its matches will not be promoted or proclaimed champions but may be relegated.

### **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 open age competition and individuals under the age of 14 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match. Referees between the ages of 14 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 will be paid their fees and/or expenses 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.
  - (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 full 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 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 on the prescribed form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.
  - (I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Season, shall submit a summary to The FA/County FA.
  - (J) This rule is 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**

<b>FEES TARIFF</b>		
<b>RULE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>MAXIMUM FEE</b>
4 (A)	CLUB ENTRY FEE	£50.00
4 (B)	CLUB/TEAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£150.00
4 (C)	DEPOSIT	£0
7 (C), 7(E)	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£25.00
18 (D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE	£10.00 (per player)
18 (H)	TRANSFER FEE	£10.00
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES	As agreed with Sanctioning Authority
23 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	As agreed with Sanctioning Authority

<b>FINES TARIFF</b>		
<b>RULE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>MAXIMUM FINE</b>
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 ENSURE TEAMS ARE RECORDED AS AFFILIATED IN THE CLUB PORTAL	£100.00
5 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£25.00
15 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY FEE INVOICES BY DUE DATE	MANDATORY £20 PER INVOICE
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 plus mandatory 3-point deduction in League Games. Game to be rescheduled, as per Rule 20(E) £100 and Removal from Competition in Knockout phase of Cup Matches. £100 & Forfeit of game in Round Robin Cup Matches
20 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£10.00
21 (A) & 21 (C)	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£20.00 Max, 1 <sup>st</sup> offence £5, 2 <sup>nd</sup> offence £10, 3 <sup>rd</sup> offence £20
21 (B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£20.00 Max, 1 <sup>st</sup> offence £5, 2 <sup>nd</sup> offence £10, 3 <sup>rd</sup> offence £20
21(C)	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

## **SCHEDULE B – INDEX**

Rule 1 Definitions

### **GOVERNANCE RULES**

Rule 2 Name and Constitution

Rule 3 Club Name

Rule 4 Entry Fee, Subscription, Deposit

Rule 5 Management, Nomination, Election

Rule 6 Powers of Management

Rule 7 Protests, Claims, Complains, Appeals

Rule 8 Annual General Meeting

Rule 9 Special General Meeting

Rule 10 Agreement to be Signed

Rule 11 Continuation of Membership, Withdrawal of a Club

Rule 12 Exclusion of Clubs, Teams. Misconduct of Clubs, Officers, Players, Management Committee

Rule 13 Trophy

Rule 14 Alteration to Rules

Rule 15 Finance

Rule 16 Insurance

Rule 17 Dissolution

### **MATCH RELATED RULES**

Rule 18 Qualification of Players

Rule 19 Club Colours

Rule 20 Playing Season. Conditions of Play, Times of Kick-Off. Postponements. Substitutes

Rule 21 Reporting Results

Rule 22 Determining Championship

Rule 23 Match Officials

### **SCHEDULE A**

Fees Tariff

Fines Tariff

## **APPENDIX A**

### **SAFEGUARDING AND VULNERABLE GROUPS ACT 2006**

From September 2008 it is a criminal offence for anyone to be in a paid/unpaid role working with children/vulnerable adults if they have not completed an enhanced DBS disclosure (via the FA /Media Group) and been "accepted" into football. This means that any such person is not to engage in regulated activity (close contact) until they have been cleared. Persons affected include referees, coaches, managers, assistant managers, welfare officers and medics.

All Child Welfare Officers, managers, assistant managers, coaches, and medics must have an enhanced CRB and be accepted into the game. Evidence to be submitted to the Management Committee before a club is eligible to register with the League for competition, commencing season 2008/9

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.

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 Management Committee to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children

Upon receipt by the Management Committee of:

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

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

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.

In reaching its determination as to whether an order under Regulation 4 should be made the Management Committee shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:

Whether a child is, or children are or may be at risk of harm.

Whether the matters are of a serious nature.

Whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by the Management Committee or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded.

The period of an order referred to in 4. shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge under the rules of the League or any offence is decided or brought to an end.

Where an order is imposed on an individual under rule 4. the Management Committee shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the rules of the League against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.

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 League and the Management Committee 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.

For the purposes of these rules, the Management Committee shall act through its Exec or any committee or sub-committee thereof.

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

### **CHILD PROTECTION**

The League is committed to ensuring all young people, who either play football or carry out some associated role for teams in this League, have a safe and positive experience. The following information has been provided in the interest of sharing 'fit for purpose' and best practice guidelines.

### **FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES**

All Young People within the care of people associated with this League (be they Managers, Coaches, Exec Members, Referees, Parents of other Players), regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability, or disability, have the right to be protected.

All Young People participating in football have a right to do so in a safe environment.

Adults working within the framework of this League will provide a safe, positive, and fun experience.

Managers, Coaches, and adult volunteers will understand and be supported in their role and responsibility about the duty of care for Young People

Individuals will receive support through education and training, to be aware of and understand best practice and how to manage any welfare issues which may arise.

All suspicions and allegations will be taken seriously, managed, and dealt with in a prompt and efficient manner.

The League recognizes the responsibility of the statutory agencies and is committed to complying with the complying with Child Protection Procedures as determined by the FA and other governing bodies.

## **DUTY OF CARE**

This is defined as the duty an individual or Club must ensure the safety and welfare of any Young Person involved in related activities, to safeguard them and protect them from reasonably foreseeable forms of harm.

## **GOOD PRACTICE**

It is important that all individuals working with Young People behave in an appropriate manner, operating within an accepted ethical framework. This will protect both the Young People and the adults. To this end we will do the following-

- Ensure that football is fun, enjoyable, and fair play is promoted.
- Treat all Young People equally, and with respect.
- Always put the welfare of Young People first
- Recognize that all Young People develop and learn differently.
- Build a balanced relationship based on mutual trust.
- Give enthusiastic and positive feedback at all times.
- Ensure that there is regular communication with parents/guardians.
- Ensure that if there is any necessary physical contact (e.g., first aid), that this is done openly and with the permission of the parents\guardians.
- Maintain player profile records in a confidential manner.

## **BAD PRACTICE**

All individuals within the League working with Young People should never do the following:

- Spend time alone with Young People away from others.
- Engage in rough, physical, or sexually provocative games.
- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching.
- Sanction the use of bad language.
- Make sexually suggestive comments.
- Allow allegations made by a Young Person to go unchallenged.
- Reduce a Young Person to tears as a form of control.
- Transport Young People in their car alone

## **CONSEQUENCES**

Child Welfare issues are of ever-increasing importance. In the event of any issues occurring which you may feel relevant please contact your Welfare Officer within your Club. The Welfare Officer has responsibility for collecting all relevant evidence in connection with any issues and discussing them privately with the League Welfare Officer.

The most common examples of welfare issues concern the conduct of parents, supporters or players towards other players and match officials.

In the event of what is deemed to be serious misconduct by players, parents, or supporters there are serious implications on the Club concerned up to and including ban from involvement with football. This course of action is not taken lightly and would always follow a full investigation and would need to be proven before any action is taken. What is deemed to be serious misconduct: Abuse of match officials; Abuse of opposition players; Abuse of Managers; Foul language; this list is not exhaustive.

## **PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS**

Throughout the season there may be times when misunderstandings occur and Managers, parents, players feel they wish to make a complaint or a protest.

These should be dealt with as fairly, and efficiently as possible, in sport and always with the development of girls' football first and foremost. This guideline explains the process that should be followed should a complaint or a protest arise, (e.g., if there are issues between Managers, issues concerning parents and players, issues relating the laws of the game). Wherever possible the League recommends that issues should be settled informally, at the time, before entering the League formal procedure. However, there are times when a more formal approach may need to be adopted.

## **PROCEDURE**

If a manager, player, match official or parent has a grievance about a situation, which they feel has affected their team's performance, brought the game into disrepute, or has affected the dignity of player, supporter or official, either during a game or outside the game; they should be encouraged to talk to their Club CWO to resolve the situation promptly and informally.

As per the rules of the League, objections relevant to the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue need to be referred to the Referee before the commencement of the match. The manager should only progress to a formal grievance below if a satisfactory resolution has not been reached via the informal route.

If the concerns are particularly sensitive, or involve the Manager, then the issue may be discussed in the first instance with the Club CWO. If this first discussion does not resolve the situation, then the following will apply:

The Manager of the team or the Secretary of the Club needs to put the grievance in writing (letters from players or parents cannot be considered; all communication must come through the Club)

The grievance form submitted needs to be countersigned by the Club Secretary and/or their CWO, clearly indicating that they support the Manager's wish to begin the formal grievance process (and, where applicable, stating what informal steps have been taken to resolve the situation)

All grievances should be sent in the first instance to the League Welfare Officer

If the grievance is a welfare issue – please ensure that this is sent in a sealed envelope – clearly marked 'welfare issue.'

The League Welfare Officer will determine from the grievance who is best placed to deal with this and will pass it on to the most appropriate person.

The League Welfare Officer will endeavour to acknowledge the grievance within 5 days of receipt and will also advise who has been asked to investigate the complaint from the League's perspective. League Welfare Officer will provide information on the progress of the matter on a regular basis (please note some issues may need forwarding to the League Welfare Officer or the County FA Welfare Officer for resolution and it is then difficult for the League to track progress and influence the speed of response)

If the matter is one that the League Management Committee need to consider, then this will be raised at the next League Management Committee meeting and response will follow straight after that meeting in terms of what action is being taken.

A final response will not be given until all parties involved have been given the opportunity to provide their views on the situation.

If appropriate a meeting will be arranged between the Club Secretary/person raising the concern and the most appropriate forum to consider the matter and to reach a solution

There is an appeal process in place and within 14 days of receiving written confirmation of the outcome of a grievance the appeal should be made to the FA (see rules for further information)

## **RESOURCES**

The FA Safeguarding Resources are available at the link below.

<http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/section-1-footballs-safeguarding-framework>

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Player Registration, Matchday and Financial Billing Information**

#### **Player Registration Systems**

As from Season 2021-22 Player registrations are MANDATORY in the FA Player Registration System.

A player remains ineligible UNTIL they appear on the Official Team List in FULL TIME, they will only appear in this list when the WGS registration has been approved.

#### **Registration Process**

1. Player to be registered in WGS by Club and Submitted to League. Online Consent & a photo taken after 1/6/22 is required. Photo's must be Headshots only. ALL others will be rejected.

2. Player to be approved by League in WGS

ONLY when all the above are completed is a player eligible to play for the team.

The League is not required to notify Clubs of the status of their players. Please use the DGLL WhatsApp facility to submit urgent requests for information on registrations.

#### **Matchday Procedures**

##### **Pre-Match:**

Refer to the fixtures list on the website in suitable time to check the fixture (who and where)

Weekly notifications will go out from Full Time at 9pm on every Sunday prior to the following weeks game with opposition & referee (where allocated) details

The Fixture Secretary is responsible for managing fixtures and will use Full Time as a means of communicating any changes

Alan Dawson for Ladies Fixtures [secretarydgl@gmail.com](mailto:secretarydgl@gmail.com)

Andy Vardy for Youth & Mini Soccer [andy.vardy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andy.vardy@hotmail.co.uk)

Monday evening prior to the following Saturday's fixture: Home Manager to contact the opposition to set up the following Saturday's fixture.

Tuesday evening prior to the following Sunday's fixture: Home Manager to contact the opposition to set up the following Sunday's fixture. Open Age Teams to ensure the referee is also contacted by Tuesday at the LATEST.

Kick off time to be confirmed, at Central Venues the DGLL determines Kick off times and pitches and will provide referees,

For all other Youth games, the home team determines Kick Off which MUST be between 0930 & 1215 UNLESS permission has been granted by the DGLL for an earlier/later kick off.

The default listed kick off time in FULL TIME for u14-u18 fixtures is 1030 and games must be scheduled to be complete by 1400. Teams should contact Andy Vardy with their actual kick off times and he will amend Full Time accordingly.

No team travelling more than 30 miles shall kick off earlier than 1100 unless agreed with both teams.

Open Age Kick offs are 1330 for Division 1 & all cup fixtures (except finals) and either 1030 or 1330 in Division 2 and 3. Division 2 & 3 teams must declare which kick off time they require prior to season start.

Teams should be aware that mid-week games will be scheduled for September, April & May.

Midweek games are Mondays & Wednesday for Youth and Tuesday & Thursday for Open Age unless there is a valid reason for a different day.

Pitch Fees at Central Venues and the method of payment will be communicated to club Treasurers separately

Directions to ground to be communicated

Check kit both teams playing in; Any colour clash then the AWAY team need to change, bibs should NOT be worn unless the shirt numbers are clearly visible

#### **Referees**

It is the Home Managers responsibility to provide a County FA registered referee if there is no League appointed Referee, and this should be done in suitable time before the match. Teams from U13 through U18 provide their own FA registered Referees except at Central Venues.

The name of the referee should be confirmed to the opposition – please also indicate whether the referee is a qualified official or a parent\helper. The Home Club at u13-u18 is also required to submit the Referee details into FULL TIME as part of the match reporting process.

If the appointed referee does not turn up for the match, the home team can offer in a substitute referee however the away team can reject the substitute referee

If for any reason a neutral referee is required; Home or Away Manager to contact the Referee's Secretary to arrange giving at least 14 days' notice to the league secretary secretarydgl@gmail.com

Referee Fees, payable prior to kick off. The default payment, if the Referee requires, is CASH regardless of Club preference.

Ladies £45  
U18 £35  
U14-U15 £30  
U9-U13 £25  
U7-U8 £20

**Match Day:**

Home Manager to ensure the pitch meets League standards; corner flags, goal posts\nets etc. are of the right standard and match balls are available

Both Home and Away Managers must check player registrations and submit a full list of players playing in the fixture to the Referee. (The Referee will be required to certify that you have provided this on his online match report.)

Please Note any player not on the list may not play, this means that if you fail to provide the referee with a list of players ALL of your players are ineligible and the Club will under the rules be subject to the sanctions for ineligible players.

If a team does not have any registration document (Squad list downloaded from Club Portal with Photo's), then the game cannot be played under the rules of the League; the game can be played as a friendly – this game would however be classed as an unauthorized cancellation.

Where a team fails to provide the required ID documents the opposition MUST notify the DGLL via TEXT/WHATSAPP on 07498 218368 BEFORE any kickoff and advise the referee that the game is being played as a friendly.

Failure to notify the DGLL prior to kick off will see the resulting fixture count as a valid league/cup tie.

Managers need to familiarize themselves with the cutoff date for eligibility to play at the relevant age group

The match result must be reported to the FULL TIME Portal, or via Matchday, by the HOME TEAM Managers (or representatives) by 6.00 p.m. on the Day of the game; in the event of a midweek game by 9.00 am the following day. This includes all development fixtures.

Failure to input the result will incur a £20 fine

A match report form must be completed by both the Home and Away Manager, using FULL TIME or the FA MATCHDAY app within 48 hours of the final whistle, this to include player stats etc as required by the App.

Help files on Matchday App are available via the link below

<https://grassrootstechnology.freshdesk.com/support/solutions/48000396671>

Failure to input the match report will incur a £20 fine

Home and Away Manager to check the website to ensure correct result has been recorded and to start process for the following week's game

All matches are to be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board or for Mini Soccer the Laws of Mini Soccer as set down by the Football Association

U14-U18 games and above to be on pitches with a minimum size of 90 yards by 50 yards with goals 7ft by 21ft goals minimum and 8ft by 24ft maximum

Players, other than the goalkeeper are NOT permitted to wear tracksuit bottoms or hats during a game. Gloves may be worn at any time by any player and cycle style shorts may be worn under football shorts as may tights or leggings. Socks and Shin pads to be worn over any tights or leggings. The management committee may decide to relax the rule about headgear in very severe weather.

Snoods, scarves hoodies are prohibited from being used by any player.

Please see the FA Website for more information and downloads

NO Jewellery is permitted to be worn and there is NO taping allowed. Players with Jewellery that "cannot be removed" may NOT play in fixtures. Spectacles/Goggles may be worn in compliance with all relevant guidance

For games on 3G players and team officials must wear the recommended footwear as directed by the individual venue.

For Games at the Racecourse Hub, players, manager, & spectators will need to have registered with Leisure United, because you are required to scan in on entry through the turnstiles.

The link to register and download the app is <https://app.leisureunited.com/Home/Start>

**Match Cancellations:**

Except by permission of the fixture's secretary, all fixtures must be completed in line with the fixture list posted on the FULL TIME, teams should be aware that league fixtures are dynamic i.e., liable to change with a minimum of 5 days' notice.

Where fixtures are not completed in line with the fixture list, and the League have not been notified or approved a change in fixture then appropriate fines will be issued

Managers should review the original fixture list prior to the start of the season and ascertain where there might be an issue and contact the fixtures secretary

The Manager who is requesting a cancellation or has the need to cancel must contact the relevant Fixture Secretary, whatever the situation before cancelling the match

There may be times when Managers don't know until arriving at the pitch that the game cannot be played – they still need to contact the Fixture Secretary to advise the game has not been played and the reason (i.e., waterlogged, frost etc.). This can be done via the Matchday App

The Fixture Secretary will rearrange fixtures to allow the game to be played – this will be posted on the fixture list on the website. Teams may not rearrange their own fixtures.

Postponements at The Racecourse Central Venue & Leesbrook Academy

The DGLL is responsible for Pitch Inspections at the Racecourse on the Day of the fixtures (Saturday) and postponements will be advised immediately via the DGLL X (formerly Twitter) Feed

Please subscribe to this feed @dgllsecretary. Please note this feed DOES NOT ACCEPT incoming messages.

**Identification Cards:**

Prior to the commencement of the match, managers shall satisfy themselves that the opposition players are registered.

Each team should be identified by their photos with each manager present.

This should be done in a non-obtrusive manner and one that would promote dignity of the players.

The Registered Squad List c/w photos can be downloaded from the Whole Game System CLUB PORTAL

Team Administrators should login to WGS and select "My Clubs & Teams" and then click "Club Portal"

Select "Players" then "Show Actions" then "Squad List"

Select the team you want to download and confirm, then confirm again the GDPR notice.

The select Download.

Please Print off the Squad List , this is the required ID document for showing your opposition each week

You can also keep a digital copy on your smart device.

You will be required to certify in your online Match Report that you have shown the ID document to your opponent.

**Duration of Play**

The DGLL plays halves for mini soccer fixtures (no quarters) due to the logistics in the booking schedules.

ALL DGLL games shall play the maximum minutes per game as per the table in the rules, except where Double Headers are scheduled. Playing Time for Double Headers will be notified on a game-by-game basis to Teams.

**First Aid Kits**

Each team must provide a first aid kit adequate to cover minor injuries such as cuts, abrasions, and bruises etc. Failure to do so may result in the suspension of a Club.

**Behaviour of Players , Managers & Spectators**

The Officials and Committee members of each Club are responsible for the actions of players, officials, members, and spectators always where a Club business is concerned. Clubs are further required to ensure that all precautions are taken to prevent players, officials, members, and spectators causing trouble during or at the conclusion of matches.

**Photography**

Video and still photography at all DG&LL League or Cup matches or unique events is permitted but may only be used with the permission of the managers involved in those matches or unique events. You may NOT record the game without the agreement of the opposition manager.

Please be aware that there may well be players with Child Protection Orders playing in fixtures and safeguarding is paramount.



## **Determining Championships**

League rankings will be decided in any one or more of the following ways: -

### **OPEN AGE FOOTBALL ONLY**

in accordance with SCOR

### **YOUTH LEAGUES ONLY**

*In accordance with SCORY plus ( if required )*

If the first and second placed teams are level on points, then a deciding match played to a conclusion- extra time and kicks to be taken from the penalty mark in accordance with the prescribed rules will decide the league winners

In the event of more than 2 teams finishing level on points, the following will apply to determine positions

- 1) Head-to-Head, (to include points gained, goal difference, goals scored)
- 2) Number of Wins
- 3) Goals Scored
- 4) Drawing of Lots by the management committee

Once the first and second placed teams are determined a deciding match played to a conclusion- extra time and kicks to be taken from the penalty mark in accordance with the prescribed rules- will decide the league winners

For deciding matches, in the event of the scores in a special championship match, played under conditions determined by the management committee, being level at the end of the game, ten minutes' extra time shall be played in two equal periods of five minutes for mini soccer, twenty minutes in two equal periods of ten minutes for 9/11 a side up to age group U16.

Games at U17/U18 will have thirty minutes' extra time in two equal periods of fifteen minutes.

In the event of scores remaining level after extra time, up to and including age group U16, the championship will be shared between the 2 teams.

U17/U18 championship games if level after extra time will be settled by penalty kicks.

## **Player Registration System**

As from Season 2022-23 Player registrations are MANDATORY in the FA Player Registration System. Players MUST be registered in WGS and approved by the Competition before becoming eligible to play in the Competition.

ALL Teams MUST have a copy (either paper or electronic) of their registered squad lists (c/w photos). This can be downloaded from WGS Club Portal and must be available as part of the ID checks pregame.

## **U11 & Under NO HEADING TRIAL**

For Season 24-25 U11 & below will remain in the NO HEADING TRIAL. However, u12 teams and above may head the ball.

## **Kick/Dribble Ins**

For season 24-25 u7/8/9 teams will replace throw ins with Kick in/Dribble ins as specified by the FA. This will extend to u10's from season 25-26. Please ensure that you have a copy of the updated Mini Soccer Rulebook from the FA.

## **Mini Soccer use of Power Play**

The DGLL Management Committee approved the use of Power Play for Mini Soccer games again this season and full details are available via the link below.

<https://dgl1.tiny.us/MiniSoccerRules>

Changes to the Laws of the Game

<https://www.theifab.com/law-changes/latest/>

Laws of the Game 24-25

<https://downloads.theifab.com/downloads/laws-of-the-game-2024-25?l=en>

FA Handbook 24-25

<https://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/lawsandrules/fa-handbook>

DGLL Website

<https://dgl1.co.uk/>

DGLL Full Time page

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/index.html?league=7061155>

## **Invoicing Information**

Invoicing for season 24-25 will be directly e-mailed invoices and payment by BAC's or Card only.

Central Venue Pitch fees for u7-u11 next season will be billed with a fixed monthly fee, for 4 games per month, (£65), for 6 months, starting July 1st onwards and then a reconciliation invoice, for any games over the 24 previously charged, due April 1st, 2025.

Individual game charges are £16.25 per team per game for u7-u12.

£32.50 for u13 and above (Home team pays)

U7-U11 pitch invoice dates will be. July 1<sup>st</sup>, Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, March 17<sup>th</sup>

Payment is due 14 days after invoice date.

Central Venue Pitch fees for u12-u18 will be billed in full with a fixed fee based on league games scheduled and then a reconciliation invoice due April 1st, 2025, for any additional fixtures.

U12-u18 pitch invoices will be billed in June with a due date of 1<sup>st</sup> September.

Player Registration fees will be consolidated and billed on Oct 1st, Dec 1st, Feb 1st & April 1st rather than an initial payment and subsequent individual invoices. Player Registration fees are £10 per player, Dual Registrations will be free from Season 24-25.

**Automatic Renewal of Club Membership**

Clubs are reminded that their Team(s) membership of the DGLL is automatically renewed each year.

Teams DO NOT have to reapply.

*However*, Clubs MUST submit a resignation for any team not playing or possibly not playing in the following season by the due dates identified in the rules to ensure they avoid a fine.

The Deadline Dates are

Youth 90 days before the AGM

Open Age 31<sup>st</sup> March in the year of the AGM

The Fine for not starting the season after entering is £100

The Fine for not resigning by the deadline date and then subsequently resigning is £100

## Appendix C

### DERBYSHIRE GIRLS AND LADIES LEAGUE CUP RULES

Standard Rules will apply with the following additions/variations.

This Competition shall be designated the Derbyshire Girls and Ladies League Challenge Cup and known as the same and shall consist of teams who have paid the annual subscription for the season and are members of the Derbyshire Girls and Ladies League. No other teams will be allowed to enter.

The competition will provide 11 a side OPEN AGE football, 11/ 9-a-side football for players who have attained the age of 12 as at midnight 31st August in a playing season and Mini-Soccer for players who have attained the age of 7 years as at midnight on 31st August in a playing season.

The DG&LL Cup will be treated a single competition but will consist of a separate cup for each of the age groups competing in the Derbyshire Girls and Ladies League.

The DG&LL may run the following Cup Competitions at the management committee's discretion.

Ladies Challenge Cup  
Ladies Challenge Plate  
Ladies League Cups (per Division)  
Ladies Regional League Invitational Trophy  
Ladies Secondary Cup  
Youth Challenge Cup, all age groups including Mini Soccer  
Youth League Cup, all age groups  
Mini Soccer Challenge Plate & Secondary Cups

Plate Competitions will be limited to those teams knocked out in their first game of the challenge cup (but excluding semi-finalists).

The Youth Challenge Cup competition will be a knockout cup, In the event the DGLL run a youth league cup competition the initial group stages may include a round robin competition with a final knockout stage. In the event teams are level on points in the group stages then the result between the teams will determine positions in the table. If result was a draw a further game will be played to determine the positions in the group stages under conditions to be determined by the DGLL. Goal difference will not count in this stage as games can be forfeited in the group stages.

The Ladies Challenge Cup competition will be a knockout cup, The League Cup competition, should it be held, will also be a knockout competition. All games will be determined by penalty kicks where necessary. There will be NO extra Time.

The Ladies Plate will consist of teams, who have been knocked out in their first game in the Ladies Challenge Cup Competition, playing a knockout format. All games will be determined by penalty kicks where necessary. There will be NO extra Time.

The Ladies Secondary Cup will consist of teams, who have been knocked out in their first game in the Ladies Plate Competition, playing a knockout format. All games will be determined by penalty kicks where necessary. There will be NO extra Time.

In the event of teams who fold prior to the next round of any competition they will automatically be replaced by their opponent from the previous round. Teams who fail to play any given tie will be excluded from the competition and fined in accordance with the set fees. In the event any team cannot play on a scheduled FINALS date then that team will be replaced by their semi-final opponent, who shall take their place on the date scheduled AND any other date should the finals be postponed. In the event, the finalist & semi-finalist as above cannot play on the nominated date(s) the Trophy will be awarded by default to the other Finalist.

All fixtures, except for the Final shall be played at the designated Home team venue, unless agreed otherwise by both teams & the DGLL

All cup draws from first round to final ties will be made at a special management meeting, only players eligible to play in the original tie will be eligible to play in any replayed game. Open Age teams applying for membership after the AGM will NOT be eligible to compete in those cup competitions but will be entered into the Plate & Secondary Cup Competition.

In the event that scheduled ties are postponed twice due to unfit pitches at the Home team venue, the 3rd attempt to play the fixture is to be played at either team's venue, whichever is fit for play, in the following order, Home Team Venue, Away Team venue.

The league would still have the option to order the game to be played on a neutral venue, i.e. 3G

A player who is eligible to play for her team in the league competition shall be eligible to play for that team in the cup

competition provided she has been registered and approved as a player for that team for at least 7 days before participating in the Cup Competition in the current season. All players MUST be registered to a club 7 days before the original fixture date for each round and prior to playing in a semi-final or final must have played a minimum combination of 3 league or cup games for the team in the competition.

Players are only "Cup Tied" in the same cup competition, i.e., a player having played for a team in the challenge cup may not play in the challenge cup for another team. However, the player may play for their "new" team in the league cup if she did not play for her previous club in the league cup. The Ladies Plate will however be classed as the same competition as the Ladies Challenge Cup and any player having played in the Challenge Cup for one team may NOT play for another team in the Plate Competition.

A player previously registered with a team that folded during the season is ineligible to play in the same competition for her current team if she played in a cup tie for the team that ceased to exist. Players MUST be eligible to play for a team on the original date of any tie. In the event of a postponement for any reason players registered after the original date for games will not be eligible to play in the rescheduled game

A team playing an ineligible player will be removed from the competition and may be fined or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee

The duration of games shall be the maximum time as set out in the standard code. The option to reduce the playing time does not apply in the Cup Competition.

Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed, but priority shall be given to The Football Association and all relevant County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary.

Any team failing to keep its engagement will be removed from the competition.

In Cup Finals or Cup Games played on a neutral ground each team must provide the referee with 2 match standard footballs.

All Cup Finals will be played at a suitable neutral venue supplied by the League. Teams will be required to share the official's fees, pitch fees, and share any cost of stewarding the event. The league will set starting times for Cup Finals.

The Designated Home teams are responsible in all Cup Competitions for the pitch fees up to and including semi-final stage.

Referees' fees are to be split equally between both teams in every game

Should penalty kicks be required to determine any cup competition games the referee will follow the current laid down procedure from the International Board with the exception that the minimum number of kicks from the penalty mark in the round will be as follows:

11v11	5 penalty kicks each and then rounds of 1 penalty each until a winner is determined.
9v9	5 penalty kicks each and then rounds of 1 penalty each until a winner is determined.
7v7	3 penalty kicks each and then rounds of 1 penalty each until a winner is determined.
Mini Soccer	3 penalty kicks each and then rounds of 1 penalty each until a winner is determined.

Both Teams, shall notify the result of each match to the FA Portal by 6:00 p.m. on the day of the match for Saturday/Sunday games and by 6:00 p.m. on the day following the match for mid-week games. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £20.