

DEFINITIONS

1. (A) In these Rules:

“**Affiliated Association**” means an Association accorded the status of an affiliated Association under the Rules of The FA.

“**AGM**” shall mean the Annual General Meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

“**Club**” means a Club for the time being in membership of the Competition.

“**Competition**” means the Wycombe & South Bucks Minor Football League.

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

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

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

“**Fees Tariff**” means a list of fees approved by the Clubs at a General Meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any matters for which fees are payable under the Rules.

“**Fines Tariff**” means a list of fines approved by the Clubs at a General Meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any breach of the Rules.

“**Ground**” means the ground on which the Club’s Team(s) plays its Competition Matches.

“**Management Committee**” means in the case of a Competition which is an unincorporated association, the Management Committee elected to manage the running of the Competition and where the Competition is incorporated it means the Board of Directors appointed in accordance with the articles of 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.

“**Participants**” means an Affiliated Association, Competition, Club, Club Official, Intermediary, Player, Official, Match Official, Management Committee member, member or employee of an Affiliated Club and all such persons who are from time to time participating in any activity sanctioned either directly or indirectly by the Association.

“**Player**” means any Contract Player, Non Contract Player or other player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club.

“**Playing Season**” means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the Competition is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the Competition is played.

“**Rules**” means these Rules under which the Competition is administered.

“**Sanctioning Authority**” means Berks & Bucks County Football Association Limited.

“**Scholarship**” means a Scholarship as set out in Rule C 3 (a) (i) of the Rules of The FA.

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

“**Team**” means a Team affiliated to a Club.

“**Team Sheet**” means a form provided by the Competition on which the names of the Players taking part in a Competition Match are listed.

“**The FA**” means The Football Association Limited.

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

“written” or **“in writing”** means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

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

- (B) 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 requirement of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.
- (C) 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 16.
- (D) The Competition shall be known as Wycombe & South Bucks Minor Football League. The Clubs participating in the Competition shall 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.
- (E) The administration of the Competition under these Rules shall 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.
- (F) 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.

NAME AND CONSTITUTION

- 2. (A) This Competition shall consist of not more than one hundred (100) Clubs or two hundred (200) Teams approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

- (B) All Clubs shall be affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority and shall have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£0.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff. The area covered by the Competition membership shall be fifteen (15) miles from Prestwood Sports & Social Club.

Clubs from outside this radius may apply for Membership. The Management Committee shall consider such applications, and providing all other entrance criteria has been met, make the recommendation to the Annual General Meeting, and shall be subject to acceptance at the Annual General Meeting

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Berks & Bucks County Football Association Limited and the constituent Teams of member Clubs may be grouped in Divisions.

- (C) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

- (i) The Competition and each member Club shall be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (to include those contained in the Equality Act 2010).
- (ii) This Competition and each member Club shall 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 shall be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.

- (D) Clubs shall comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including but not limited to, Charter Standard and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£0.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (E) 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 shall result in a fine (£25.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (F) At the AGM or a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the compilation of the Divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 12.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

3. (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club shall be made in writing to the Secretary and shall be accompanied by an entry fee £25 set out in the Fees Tariff per Team 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 Special General Meeting or on a date agreed by the Management Committee.

- (B) An Annual Subscription (£55.00) shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Team and shall be payable on or before 31st May in each year.
- (i) Any application received after the Annual General Meeting shall, in addition to the application fee, be subject to a £30.00 administration fee.
- (ii) The Subscription shall include entry to any League/Subsidiary Cup Competition within the Wycombe & South Bucks Football League with the exception of the Mayors Cup and Referees Cup.
- (C) A Deposit of (£15.00) shall be payable for each new Team in accordance with the Fees Tariff on or before 31st May of its first year.
- (D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Entry Fee, Annual Subscription and Deposit (if required) have been paid.
- (E) Clubs shall advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 31st July of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season, failing which they shall be fined (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Clubs shall advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition.

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

4. (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and ten (10) members who shall all be elected at the AGM. All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The FA from time to time.
- (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 31st March in each year. All other candidates for election as Officers or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two member Clubs, not later than 31st May 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 (3) 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.
- (i) Management Committee Members may be required to stand down if they fail to attend 50% of a seasons Management Committee Meetings.
- (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 shall be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£0.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

5. (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) (i) Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one (1) vote thereat, but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall apply to the procedure of any sub-Committee).

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

- (ii) The Management Committee may from time to time call a meeting of Clubs for administrative or information purposes only. The Management Committee together with one (1) Representative of each member Club shall attend. At least seven (7) days notice of the meeting shall be given. Failure to be represented without satisfactory reason being given, a Club shall incur a fine (not exceeding £25.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

With the exception of Rules 5(I), 6(H) and 19 in relation to any alleged breaches of a Rule the Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged is required to respond to the charge within seven (7) days from the date of notification of the charge. In such reply a Club may:-

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

Where the Club charged fails to respond within seven (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 shall ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances. No Participant under the age of eighteen (18) can be fined.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game, 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 16.

Decisions of the Management Committee shall be notified in writing to those concerned within ten (10) days.

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

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

- (H) A Club shall comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, and shall attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule shall incur a fine (£25.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (I) Subject to its right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16 below, all fines and charges shall be paid within fourteen (14) days of the date of posting of notification of the decision.

Any Club failing to do so shall incur a fine (not exceeding £50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional sum within a further fourteen (14) days shall result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

- (J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or match may have any expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.
- (K) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition Playing Season.
- (L) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6. (A) The AGM shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least thirty (30) 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 ensuing Playing Season.
 - (v) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
 - (vi) Appointment of Auditors.
 - (vii) Alteration of Rules, if any (See Rule 20).
 - (viii) Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition (earliest 9.30am).
 - (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 fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting together with any proposed changes.
- (C) A signed copy of the duly verified Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within fourteen (14) days of its adoption by the AGM.
- (D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two (2) delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one (1) vote only. Fourteen (14) days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.
- (E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Playing Season being concluded.
- (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 (1) member Club.
- (H) Any continuing Club shall be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£25.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM.
- (J) Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

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

“We, (A), (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 16.”

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 (2) Directors of the Club.

Any alteration of the Chairman and /or Secretary of the Club on the above agreement shall be notified to the County Football Association(s) to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary.

Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£0.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

8. (A) (i) A registered youth playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:-

- (a) Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by his /her parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the Registrations Secretary five (5) days prior to the player playing and whose completed registration counterfoil has been received by the Club prior to playing. The registration document shall incorporate any known serious medical conditions of the Player and emergency contact details of the Player’s parents or guardians. These details shall be available at matches and training events the Player attends within the management of the Club or Competition.

Or

- (b) registered through WGS.

Any registration form which is sent by either of the means set out at Rules (A) (i) (a) or (b) above is not fully and correctly completed shall be returned to the Club unprocessed. If a Club attempts to register a player via WGS but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via WGS, the registration shall not be processed. For Clubs registering players under Rules 8(A) (i) (a) registration forms shall be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition. For Clubs registering players via WGS (under Rule 8(A) (i) (b) Clubs shall access WGS in order to complete the registration process.

- (ii) Registration forms may also be submitted to the Registrations Secretary by electronic mail or facsimile machine prior to the Player playing. The original document shall be forwarded by post within three (3) days of the match to the appropriate Officer.

The registration document shall incorporate a current passport-size photograph of the Player seeking registration together with proof of the Player’s date of birth.

If a Player’s age is required for registration purposes a Competition shall accept an original birth certificate or a photocopy. In cases where the birth certificate is not available a Competition is required to accept a photocopy of the Player’s passport or other official document issued by a Government Agency attesting to the Player’s date of birth.

For all new players and those crossing the Under 15 threshold the registration document shall incorporate a NEW passport sized photograph of the player seeking registration together with proof of the player's date of birth with a photocopy/scanned copy of the player's original birth certificate or satisfactory evidence confirming date of birth at the initial date of registration. In the case of a player who has been previously registered with the League then the retention of the player's form is required, to include on the form each retained player's signature.

Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£0.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player registered to the for that Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged ten (10) and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

- (ii) A Player registered with a Premier League or Football League Academy under the Elite Player Performance Plan contained within Youth Development Rules shall not be permitted to play in this Competition. Details of the Youth Development Rules are published on The FA website. A Player registered with a FA Girls’ Regional Talent Club may play in this Competition subject to the FA Programme for Excellence (Female) Regulations.

- (iii) If any Player is serving in any branch of Her Majesty's Regular Forces, the Player shall first obtain the consent of his Association secretary before signing a registration form to play for a Club.
- (iv) Each Team shall have the following number of Players registered fourteen (14) days before the start of each Playing Season: eg under 12,13,14 (Fourteen (14) days prior to 11/9/16 being 28/8/16), under 15,16 (Fourteen (14) days prior to 4/9/16 being 21/8/16)

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

Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£25.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Only players who have submitted registration documents, complete and in order or have signed and submitted their respective Team Retention Sheet no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the official start date shall be eligible to play in a match in this Competition on the official published start date, whether a fixture has been scheduled or not.

In the event of new Registrations, Transfers, Renewal Forms or Team Retention Sheets being received after 21st August 2016 (under 15,16) & 28th August 2016 (under 12,13,14) and up to midnight of this Competition's first fixture date the player shall NOT be eligible to play until this Competition's SECOND fixture date, subject to Rule 8(B). Thereafter, documents received by midnight on Tuesdays shall be eligible to play on the weekend directly following.

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

The relevant age for each Player is determined by his or her age as at midnight on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season i.e. children who are aged 6 as at midnight on 31 August in a Playing Season (together with those who attain the age of 6 during the Playing Season) shall 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 shall be classed as Under 8 Players for that Playing Season, and so on.

Notwithstanding the above, a child is permitted to play up in the age group above his or her chronological age group, irrespective of any changes of format or Competition structure, save that a child who attains the age of 6 after 31 August is permitted to play only in the Under 7 age group, and may not play in the Under 8 age group, for that Playing Season.

The age groups that children are eligible to play in are set out in the table below, along with the permitted football formats for each of those age groups. Children shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match between sides of more than the stated number of players, according to their age group:

Age on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season	Eligible Age Groups	Maximum Permitted Format	Minimum Pitch Sizes		Maximum Pitch Sizes		Recommended Goal Sizes in feet	Ball Size
			Yards	Metres	Yards	Metres		
6	Under 7	5v5	30x20	27.45 x 18.3	40x30	36.3 x 27.45	12x6	3
	Under 8		30x20	27.45 x 18.3		36.3 x 27.45		
7	Under 8	5v5	30x20	27.45 x 18.3	40x30	36.3 x 27.45	12x6	3

	Under 9	7v7	50x30	45.75 x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	3
8	Under 9	7v7	50x30	45.75 x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	3
	Under 10		50x30	45.75 x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	4
9	Under 10	7v7	50x30	45.75 x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	4
	Under 11	9v9	70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
10	Under 11	9v9	70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
	Under 12		70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
11	Under 12	9v9	70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
	Under 13	11v11	90x50	82.3x45. 75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
12	Under 13	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
	Under 14		90x50	82.3 x 45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
13	Under 14	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
	Under 15		90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
14	Under 15	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
	Under 16		90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
15	Under 16	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
	Under 17		100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
	Under 18		100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
16	Under 17	11v11	100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
	Under 18		100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
	Open Age		100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5

(D) A fee (£4.00 per player up to 31st July and £5.00 per player thereafter) as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered, if applicable.

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

In the event of a Player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one (1) Club priority of registration shall decide for which Club the Player shall be registered. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the Player of the fact of the previous registration.

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

(i) Play for more than one (1) Club in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.

- (ii) Having **registered** for one (1) Club in the Competition, **register** for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season, except for the purpose of a transfer.
- (iii) Submit a signed registration form **or submit a registration through WGS** for registration that the Player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£0.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(G)(i) The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rule 8(G)(ii) and Rule 8(G)(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 (£0.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff that has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 16).

(iii) The Management Committee shall also have the power to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct, such refusal or cancellation being subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority. 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 8(G)(iii) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion shall be considered to be under a probationary period of twelve (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 8(G)(iii) shall only be taken against a Player in cases of the Player bringing the Competition into disrepute and shall in any event be subject to an appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. All decisions shall 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 one hundred & twelve (112) days' suspension, or ten (10) matches in match based discipline, in any Competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of two (2) years or less from the date of the first offence.)

(H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C 2(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 Registration Secretary accompanied by a fee (£4.00 per player up to 31st July and £5.00 per player thereafter) as set out in the Fees Tariff. Such transfer shall be referred by the Registration Secretary 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 seven (7) days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within seven (7) days, the Registration Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the Player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or 0 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) All Managers or their nominated representative shall have their Team's Registration/Identity Cards at **ALL** games and offer to exchange them with the opposing Team prior to the start of the match. Failure to have Registration Cards available prior to the start of any match in any Competition organised by this League shall make a Team liable to a fine (£5.00 per missing Registration Card up to a maximum of £25.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (ii) Each Manager or his nominated representative shall sign the Match Card and enter the opposing Team's "Team Code" on the Match Card to verify that he has seen the opponent's Registration Cards. Failure to sign the Match Card and/or enter the opponent's "Team Code" on the Match Card shall result in a fine. (£25.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

In the event of a player's eligibility being challenged by the opposition and the necessary Registration Card or Cards not being present at the match, the Management Committee shall have the discretion to either award the League match to the opposition or to order the match to be replayed in addition to any fine they may impose.

From time to time Management Committee members may attend matches and shall be shown the Registration Cards upon such request.

Scanned originals of Registration Forms, Transfer Forms, Renewal Forms and squad Retention Sheets are accepted by email provided, in the case of new Registrations, passport photos are fixed to the Registration Form in the space provided on the form prior to scanning and is accompanied by the player's proof of age and deed of name change where applicable within the same attachment. All documents required to register a player shall be received in one transmission.

In all cases the file attached and email subject line is to be clearly and logically named/titled. The email subject line shall always contain the name of the Club or Team plus age group to which the files attached relate. Where attachments contain more than one (1) player's registration documents then the file name shall contain the same of the Club or Team plus age group, where attachments contain individual player registration documents then the file shall contain the name of the player.

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

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

In the event a Club has more than one (1) Team in an age group, each Team shall be clearly identifiable **but not designated 'A' or 'B' or 1st or 2nd**. In such cases, Players shall be registered for one (1) Team only. A Player so registered shall be allowed to play for his Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 8(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 any duly appointed member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one (1) Playing Season only.

In the event of a Non Contract Player changing his status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a Club in another Competition his registration as a Non Contract Player shall automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 8(B)(i).

(L) A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 12(A)) unless the Player has played four (4) league games for that Team in this Competition in the current Playing Season.

(M) (i) Subject to Rule 8(M)(ii), any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a match or matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of twelve (12) points, and have levied upon it a fine (not exceeding £25.00) 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 8(M)(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 8(M)(i) above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion:

(a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed;

(b) Levy penalty points against the Club in default; or

(c) Order that such match or matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

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

(N)(i) Priority shall be given at all times to school and school organisations activities. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£0.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

(iii) A child under the age of fifteen (15) as at midnight on 31 August in a Playing Season, shall not be permitted to play in a Competition Match during that Playing Season where any other Player is older or younger than that child by two (2) years or more.

CLUB COLOURS. CLUB NAME

9. (A) Every Club shall register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 30th June who shall decide as to their suitability.

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

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

Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents the colours in which they shall play (including the colours of the goalkeeper jersey) at least two (2) days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the Referee, two (2) Teams have the same or similar colours, the Home Team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick-off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours they shall be fined (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Shirts shall be numbered.

(B) Any Club wishing to change its name shall obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority and from the Management Committee. Any Club wishing to change its colours during the Playing Season shall obtain permission from the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£0.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY

TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES

10. (A) All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board or, for Mini-Soccer, and 9v9 football, the Rules as set down by The FA.

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

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

Football Turf Pitches are allowed in this Competition. All Football Turf Pitches used shall be on The FA’s Register of Football Turf Pitches and shall be tested (by an accredited test institute) every three (3) years and the results passed to The FA. The FA shall 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 10(C).

All matches shall have a duration as set out below unless a shorter time is mutually arranged by the two (2) Clubs in consultation with the Referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

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 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	10	20	40	60	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 2 week periods (6 weeks)
Under 9 and Under 10	20	25	60	90	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 4 week periods (12 weeks)

Under 11	20	30	80	120	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 6 week periods (18 weeks)
Under 12	20	30	80 (if applicable)	120	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 13 and Under 14	25	35	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 15 and Under 16	25	40	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 17 and Under 18	25	45	120	180	Any varieties including one season long league table

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 (2) competing Clubs prior to the scheduled date of the match with written notification given to the Secretary at least four (4) days prior.

Referees shall order matches to commence at the appointed time and shall report all late starts to the Secretary.

The Home Team shall provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two (2) footballs fit for play and the Referee shall make a report to the Secretary if the footballs are unsuitable. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(i) The Fixture Secretary shall circulate Original fixtures (Fixture Grids) a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the season start date.

The Fixture Secretary shall review annually, prior to issue of Fixture Grids, matches for any of the three (3) Sundays over Christmas and New Year period and the first Sunday of the Autumn, Spring and Whitsun Half-Terms. Matches shall not be scheduled for the Easter weekend, except when requested by Clubs to the Fixture Secretary in writing. On all other Sundays matches shall be allocated at the discretion of the Fixture Secretary.

(ii) Each Team shall be allowed one (1) free date (scheduled Cup games excepted) for any reason during the season. Ten (10) clear days notice shall be given to the Fixture Secretary in writing prior to the scheduled fixture date. Failing to give ten (10) clear days notice and the match not being played it shall be treated as an unfulfilled fixture and shall incur a fine (£15.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(iii) The Fixture Secretary shall give at least nine (9) clear days notice of a rearranged fixture(s) (Sunday/given Midweek dates).

(iv) The Competition shall **be allowed to arrange** the playing of two (2) separate matches in a day. In the Under 12's two (2) matches of forty (40) minutes (twenty (20) minutes each half). In the Under 13's to Under 16's two (2) matches of fifty (50) minutes (twenty-five (25) minutes each half). Two (2) match Result Cards shall be submitted (one 1(1) for each match). The match Result Cards shall state they are double headers and numbered one (1) and two (2). The earliest scheduled fixture date between the two (2) Teams shall be the date on which the two (2) matches shall be played. Once the two (2) matches have been agreed notice shall be given by BOTH Clubs/Teams to the Fixture Secretary in writing. Failure to play either or both matches shall be treated under Rule 10(E) and shall incur a fine (£15.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

N.B. THIS RULE SHOULD ONLY BE UTILIZED IF THERE ARE NO OTHER SOLUTIONS.

(v) Midweek games shall be arranged by the Fixture Secretary where necessary on a “given date” basis (Saturdays included) giving a minimum of ten (10) clear days notice. Midweek games can be arranged from the date(s) given by mutual agreement of both Teams and sanctioned by the Fixture Secretary, and given a minimum of ten (10) clear days notice of the midweek date given. Failure to play match shall be dealt with under Rule 10(E) shall incur a fine (£15.00) in accordance with the fines tariff. The time of kick-off for midweek games shall be no earlier than 6-30pm, unless mutually agreed by both Teams.

(B) Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches shall be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches shall be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the Fixtures Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£15.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

(C) An Officer of the Home Club shall give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the group and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least four (4) clear days prior to the playing of the match. If not so provided, the Away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(D) The minimum number of Players that shall 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 shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(E) (i) In Competitions where points are awarded Home and Away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have the power to impose a fine (£15.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing Home and Away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent’s Ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

(ii) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason shall, without delay, give notice to the Fixtures Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials.

Failure to comply with this Rule shall incur a fine (£10.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

(iii) In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it **should** be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two (2) Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixtures Secretary within four (4) days the Management Committee shall have the power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. **Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs 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 shall result in a fine (£15.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(iv) The Management Committee shall review all matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one (1) Team

or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponent. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

(v) The Management Committee shall review any match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by The FA or Affiliated Association. In each case the Team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 8(M)(i) above. Where both Teams were under suspension the match shall be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

(vi) Postponement forms shall be accepted due to:

(a) Local Council pitches closed as a result of Council instruction except adverse weather conditions.

(b) School activities, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Club/Scout, provided this is accompanied by letter(s) from the school(s), organisation(s) concerned, on headed paper and clearly naming the individuals involved no later than Wednesday after the scheduled fixture to be postponed.

(vii) Insufficient registered players, illness, injuries or holidays shall not be accepted as a satisfactory reason for postponing matches except in exceptional circumstances.

(viii) Notice of postponement of any matches shall be given by **the postponing Club** in the form of the League Postponement Notice (except unplayable pitches) and shall be sent to the Fixture Secretary within forty-eight (48) hours of the postponement date. A Club in breach of this Rule shall incur a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the fines tariff.

(ix) All matches not played due to a Club being suspended from the Competition shall be deemed “unplayed matches” and shall be dealt with under Rule 10(E) and shall incur a fine (£15.00) in accordance with the fines tariff.

(x) All abandoned matches shall be reported to the Secretary & Fixture Secretary BY BOTH TEAMS on the relevant form to be received by the Wednesday following the date of the game. It shall include the time of the abandonment, the reason and the score at the time. Failure to submit the form shall result in a fine (£15.00) in accordance with the fines tariff.

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

Where a Competition does allow **return** substitutes:

For Under 17s and Under 18s – up to five (5) may be selected from five (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 Under 11s - Under 16s – up to five (5) may be selected from five (5) substitute Players. A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace any Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

For Mini-Soccer – any number of substitutions may be used at any time with the permission of the Match Official. Entry onto the field of play shall only be allowed during a stoppage in play. A Player who has been replaced may return to the play as a substitute for another Player. A Team shall 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 of the substitutes not later than five (5) minutes before the start of the match and a Player not so named may not take part in the match.

A Player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a Player in that game within the meaning of Rule 8 of this Competition.

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

(H) The Teams taking part in Youth Football shall identify a Team captain who shall wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her Teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£0.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

REPORTING RESULTS

11.(A) The Registration Secretary shall receive within four (4) days of the date played, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. This shall include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) and also the Referee markings required by Rule 13, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to do so shall incur a fine (not exceeding £25.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Match Result Cards shall record the following information in ink and in legible format:

- (i) The score, Home and Away.
- (ii) Initials, surname and REGISTRATION NUMBER, NOT their PERSONAL IDENTITY NUMBER of each player taking part including substitutes, up to a maximum of sixteen (16) players per Team.
- (iii) The name of the Referee.
- (iv) Both Managers' signatures to confirm Registration Cards have been checked.
- (v) The Competition.
- (vi) Age Group.
- (vii) Division/Cup Round.
- (viii) Time of kick-off.
- (ix) FULL title of both Home and Away Teams.
- (x) Referees' markings by both Managers.
- (xi) Opposition Team Codes.
- (xii) The Match Result Card entries of players not used shall be crossed through, failure to comply shall result in a fine (£10.00 per player) in accordance with the Fines Tariff for each player's name over and above the maximum of sixteen (16).
- (xiii) The Match Result Card, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club. The Management Committee shall have power to take such action as they deem suitable against a Club which submits an incomplete form or incorrect information including a fine (not exceeding £25.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Result is defined as abandonment, postponed match, unplayed or match result.

- (B) The Home Club shall telephone/SMS/email/notify the result of each match to the Fixture Secretary by 6.30pm (9.30pm in the case of midweek matches) on the day of the match. Clubs in default shall be fined (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Club, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to do so shall result in a fine (not exceeding £25.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (D) The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect but NOT publish results or any grading tables for fixtures involving Under 7s, Under 8s, Under 9s, Under 10s, and Under 11s. Any Competition failing to abide by this Rule shall be dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority. The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect and publish results for trophy events.
- (E) Results of County Cup matches, or any other match in Competitions in which the Club has permission to enter, whether HOME or AWAY shall also be communicated in the same way to the Fixture Secretary. Failure to comply shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

The Competition may require a Club to confirm that a set fixture has been played. A fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff may be imposed for a breach of this Rule.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

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

In the event of two (2) or more Teams being equal on points for the championship, runner-up, promotion or relegation at the close of the Competition, their position shall be determined by the number of points attained in their League matches against each other during the season. The Team with the most points being deemed to have the higher League position. Should this fail to determine winners, then the aggregate score against each other shall determine the winners. If the aggregate score fails to determine the winners, then a single deciding match shall be played at a venue decided by the Management Committee. If at the end of normal time of this match the scores are level. The winners shall be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with International Board Procedures.

(B) Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first three (3) and last three (3) Teams in each Under 11 Division. For the remaining age groups with more than one (1) Division the winners and runner-up of the lower Divisions shall be automatically promoted to the higher Division for the following season.

The two (2) bottom placed Teams of the higher Division SHALL BE LIABLE for relegation to the lower Divisions, subject to the discretion of the Management Committee.

Notwithstanding the above, to ensure an even balance of Teams in each Division, the Management Committee may promote or relegate additional Teams over and above that stipulated.

(C) In the event of a Team withdrawing from the Competition and not completing 75% of its fixtures for the season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Team shall be expunged from the Competition Table. **For the purposes of this Rule 12(C) a completed fixture shall include any Competition match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee.**

REFEREES

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

(B) **In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee the appointed Senior Assistant Referee shall take charge and a substitute Assistant Referee be appointed by the competing Teams. In cases where there are no officially appointed Assistant Referees, or where the Competition has been unable to appoint a Referee, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee who shall not be the Manager of either Team. If no agreement is reached then it is the Home Team's responsibility to provide a Referee who shall not be the Manager. The person appointed as the Referee shall have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee.**

For Under 15 and Under 16 Division 1 age groups registered Referees shall be appointed for all matches by the Referee Secretary. In cases where it is not possible to appoint a registered Referee the Official may or shall be supplied by either Club at the Referee Secretary's discretion, AND WITH HIS AGREEMENT ONLY, providing the said Official has no association with that Team through its Management or Players. If no agreement is reached then it is the Home Team's responsibility to provide a Referee who shall not be the Manager. The person who is appointed as the Referee shall have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee.

Any breach of this Rule shall incur a fine (not exceeding £20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff, and the match shall be awarded to the Away Team.

Individuals under the age of sixteen (16) shall not participate either as a Referee or Assistant Referee in any open age Competition and individuals under the age of fourteen (14) shall not participate either as a Referee or Assistant Referee in any Competition. Referees between the ages of fourteen (14) and sixteen (16) are only eligible to officiate in Competitions where the players' age band is at least one (1) year younger than the age of the Referee, for example, a fifteen (15) year old Referee may only officiate in Competitions where the age banding is fourteen (14) or younger.

(C) Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to do so shall result in a fine (£5.00) 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 matches and the decision shall be final subject to either in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, the representative of that body is the sole arbiter and whose decision shall be accepted.
- (E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Association, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid their fees and inclusive of expenses in accordance with the Fees Tariff.
- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Under 12 and Under 13 | £30.00 |
| Under 14, Under 15 and Under 16 | £35.00 |
- Match Officials shall be paid their fees by the Home Club unless otherwise ordered by the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (F) In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee. Where a match is not played owing to one (1) Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff. Failure to comply with the Rule shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (G) A Referee not keeping his or her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Association with which he or she is registered.
- (H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Registration Secretary on the Match Result Card. Any Club marking a Referee fifty (50) or below, shall, in writing to the Registration Secretary within seven (7) days of the match, giving the reasons for such marks. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.
- (I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Playing Season, shall submit a summary to The FA/County FA.
- (J) A Referee shall be at least two (2) years older than the age group in which he/she is officiating.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

14. (A) Any Club wishing to resign from the Competition shall do so at least twenty-eight (28) days before the AGM. Failure to do so shall result in a fine (£15.00) 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 (£25.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (C) In addition to the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 5(I), in the event of a member Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50.00, the Management Committee are empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

15. (A) (i) All questions of eligibility, qualifications 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 shall not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match.
- (B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (as set out more fully at Rule 15(A) above) (which shall contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) shall be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within seven (7) days (excluding Sundays) of the 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 (£10.00) 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 shall receive a copy of the submission and shall be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least seven (7) days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.
- (i) All parties shall have received seven (7) days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
- (ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then they should forward a deposit of £10 and indicate such when forwarding the written response.
- (E) If so requested by all parties concerned, the Management Committee may determine any disputes, protests, appeals, claims or complaints between two (2) Clubs in which event both Clubs shall send a non-returnable fee. Such determination shall be final and binding upon the parties concerned. The procedure for such determination shall be determined by the Management Committee.

APPEALS

16. (A) Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee shall be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within fourteen (14) days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee (£25.00) 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 shall also be sent to the Secretary. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority, in such respect the Sanctioning Authority may (but is not obliged to):
- (i) Invite submissions by the parties involved;
- (ii) Convene a hearing to hear the appeal;
- (iii) Permit new evidence; or
- (iv) Impose deadlines as are appropriate.
- Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.
- (B) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an Annual or Special General Meeting unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAMS

MISCONDUCT, CLUBS, OFFICIALS, PLAYERS

17. (A) At the AGM or Special General Meeting called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from further membership which shall be supported by (more than) two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot.
- (B) At the AGM, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, 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 shall 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 expulsion or 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 Rule 17(A) and Rule 17(B).

TROPHY:- LEGAL OWNERS, CONDITIONS OF TAKING OVER, AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED. AWARDS.

18. (A) (i) 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 the first Tuesday in March. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.”

Failure to comply shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(ii) A fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff may be imposed for each week that a trophy is retained by a Club after that date at the Management Committee's discretion

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

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

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

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

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

Each member Club shall be empowered to send two (2) delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one (1) vote only. Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Special General Meetings.

Any continuing member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined (£25.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

ALTERATION TO RULES

20. Alterations, for which consent has been given by the sanctioning Association shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 19. Any alteration made during the playing season to the Rule relating to the qualification of players shall not take effect until the following season.

Notice of the proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the General Secretary by 28th February in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 15th March and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the General Secretary by 31st March. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if (more than) two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the sanctioning Football Association by not later than 14th April.

Any alterations or additions decided upon at any meeting shall not become operative until the approval of the Association issuing sanction shall have been obtained.

FINANCE

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

(B) All expenditure in excess of £100.00 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two (2) Officers nominated by the Management Committee.

(C) The financial year of the Competition shall end on 31st May.

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

INSURANCE

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

(B) All Clubs shall have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident insurance cover shall 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 Association.

Failure to comply with Rule 22(A) or 22(B) shall result in a fine (not exceeding £25.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

FIRST AID

23. All Clubs participating in the League SHALL register with the Management Committee, at least one (1) individual for each Team who is qualified to the basic level of an approved FA First Aid Course, covering life saving skills on the field of play. A copy of the valid certificate is to be registered with the League Secretary seven (7) days prior to the Teams first match in the Competition. Failure to do so shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

DISSOLUTION

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

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

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

(i) Any surplus assets, save for a Trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football 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 Association.

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

RULES FOR CUP COMPETITIONS
LEAGUE CUP(S), MAYORS CUP, REFEREES CUP, MEMORIAL CUP(S)

1. (a)(i) These Cup Competitions are subsidiary to the Wycombe & South Bucks Minor Football League and shall be confined to Clubs who are Members of the League.

(ii) The League Cup, Mayors Cup, Referees Cup and Memorial Cup Competitions and any arranged matches for the aforementioned Competitions shall take PRIORITY over any Invitation Cups outside our Competition.

(b)(i) The administration of the Cup Competitions shall be vested in the League Management Committee who shall have powers to deal with any matters for which no specific provision is made in these Cup Competition Rules.

(ii) In the event of additional knock-out Cup Competitions being organised within the Wycombe & South Bucks Minor League, each Team in membership shall, by age group or specified Divisions, be automatically entered, whether there is a fee or not, unless a request is made in writing not to enter. The Management Committee shall have the power to alter the format of these additional cup Competitions if the number competing so justifies.
- 2 (a) All matches shall be played in accordance with the Rules of the League in so far as they are relevant.

(b) All matches shall be played on a knockout one (1) leg basis throughout the Competitions including the Final.

(c) In the event of the scores being level at full time the winners shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the International Board Procedures contained within the Laws of the Game.

(d) All matches shall be played to a conclusion and except where the Referee so decides, the failure to finish a match to a conclusion shall result in both Teams being removed from the Competition and subject to a fine (not exceeding £25.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(e) In the event of any match being postponed or abandoned, the match shall be re-scheduled fourteen (14) days later. Any subsequent postponements shall be rescheduled seven (7) days later unless it is beneficial to the Competition until the match is concluded.
(f) Any player registered with a Team shall be eligible to compete in any round of a League Cup, Referees' Cup, Mayor's Cup or Dick Hopkins Memorial Cup Competition into which that Team has been entered. A player not registered with his Club by midnight four (4) weeks prior, shall not be eligible to compete in a semi-final or final match, subject to transfer and registration deadline, Rule 8(J).
- 3 (a) Any player registered with a Team in the Wycombe & South Bucks Minor League shall be eligible to compete in any round of these subsidiary Cup Competitions into which that Team has entered.

(b) No player shall play for more than one (1) Team in these Competitions, irrespective of age group. Once a player has played for any Team in any Wycombe & South Bucks Minor League subsidiary Cup, he shall remain registered to that Team for the remainder of the season in that particular Cup Competition in all age groups. (Subject to League Rule 8 (J))

(c) A Team playing a player who has not been registered or is otherwise ineligible, shall incur a fine (not exceeding £25.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff and shall be removed from the Competition.
- 4 A Team may at its discretion and in accordance with League Rule 10(G) use five (5) substitutes who may be selected from five (5) players.

- 5 League Cup. The Entry Fee for this Competition is included in the League Annual Subscription. This shall be competed for at each age group of the Wycombe & South Bucks Minor Football League. Teams from First Division and Second Division Clubs shall be exempt until the last thirty-two (32) Teams. Mayor's Cup. The Entry Fee for this Competition shall be (£10.00 per Team) in accordance with Fees Tariff. The Mayor's Cup shall be competed for by Teams in the Under 12 age group.
- 6 Referee's Cup. The Entry Fee for this Competition shall be (£10.00 per Team) as set out in the Fees Tariff. Division Two Teams shall enter at the last sixteen (16) stage. The Referee's Cup shall be competed for by Teams in the Under 15 age group. First Division Clubs shall NOT qualify for this Competition. Division Two Teams shall enter at the last sixteen (16) Team's stage.
- 7 Dick Hopkins Memorial Cup. The Entry Fee for this Competition is included in the League Annual Subscription. The Dick Hopkins Memorial Cup shall be competed for by Teams in the Under – 13 age group. First Division Clubs shall NOT qualify for this Competition. Division Two Teams shall enter at the last sixteen (16) Team's stage.
- 8 When conducting the draw for these subsidiary Cups, the first drawn of each pair shall be considered as the HOME Team inclusive of the Semi-Finals.
- 9 Match Officials appointed shall be entitled to charge match fees as in League Rule 13 (E) and shall be shared equally between the Home and Away Teams. The Home Team shall be responsible for payments to Officials. Failure to do so shall incur a fine (not exceeding £10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- 10 (a) The Management Committee shall present a total of sixteen (16) medals, plaques or other suitable mementoes to the players of the Winners and Runners-Up in the Cup Competitions organised by the League.
(b) Only players (or named substitutes) who played in the Final match shall be entitled to an award.
(c) A player sent off in the Final match shall have his medal withheld and it shall be the responsibility of his Club to appeal to the League Management Committee for it to be awarded.
- 11 Teams contesting the Semi-Final shall submit to the Registration Secretary, a list of players from whom their Team shall be selected, together with the Team colours by no later than seven (7) days prior to the match. Teams contesting a Final shall submit details fourteen (14) days prior to the match.

REPRESENTATIVE GAMES

- (1) All players shall only be eligible to play in the age group in which they are registered to play.

A maximum of eighteen (18) shall be selected for each Representative Team. Additional players may be added with the permission of the Management Committee.

FEES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	FEE
3 (A)	ENTRY FEE	£25.00
3 (B)	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£55.00
3 (C)	DEPOSIT	£15.00
8 (D)	REGISTRATION FORM	£4.00(per player) up to 31st July. £5 (per player) thereafter
8 (H)	TRANSFER FORM	£4.00(per player) up to 31st July. £5 (per player) thereafter
13 (E)	REFEREE FEES	U12,U13 = £30, U14, U15, U16 = £35
13 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	£10.00
13 (F)	REFEREES & ASSISTANT REFEREES FEES FOR MATCH NOT PLAYED DUE TO NO FAULT BY EITHER TEAM.	Half fee payable as per 13(E)
15 (C)	PROTEST FEES	£10.00
16	APPEAL FEE	£25.00
CUP RULE 5	MAYORS CUP ENTRY FEE	£10.00
CUP RULE 6	REFEREES CUP ENTRY FEE	£10.00

FINES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	FINE
2 (B)	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£0.00
2 (D)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£0.00
2 (E)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£25.00
3 (E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM	£10.00
4 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£0.00
5 (C) (ii)	FAILURE TO ATTEND A MEETING OF CLUBS	Up to £25.00
5 (H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£25.00
5 (I)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN 14 DAYS OF NOTICE	Up to £50.00
6 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£25.00
7	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£0.00
8 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£0.00
8 (B)(iv)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON COMMENCING	£25.00
8 (F)	SIGNING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£0.00
8 (G) (ii)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£0.00

8 (H) (i)	FAILURE TO SHOW REGISTRATION CARDS AT A MATCH	£5.00 per missing card up to a maximum of £25.00
8(H) (ii)	FAILURE TO SIGN THE MATCH CARD AND/OR ENTER THE OPPONENT'S TEAM CODE ON THE MATCH CARD	£25.00
8(M)(i)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	Up to £25.00
8 (N)(i)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£0.00
9 (A),10 (A)	DELAYING KICK OFF/NO NETS/ NO CORNER FLAGS/COLOUR CLASH	£10.00
9(A)	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£0.00
9 (B)	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£0.00
10 (A) (ii) & (iv) 10 (E) (i), (iii), (ix) & (x)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£15.00
10 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£15.00
10 ©	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE OR SEEK CONFIRMATION	£10.00
10 (D)	FAILURE TO HAVE MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS THAT SHALL CONSTITUTE A TEAM	£10.00
10 (E)	FAILURE TO NOTIFY FIXTURE SECRETARY, REFEREES APPOINTMENTS SECRETARY, OPPOSING CLUB SECRETARY AND MATCH OFFICIALS OF POSTPONEMENT	£10.00
10 (E) (viii)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT A POSTPONEMENT FORM	£10.00
10 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£0.00
11 (A) & 11 (C)	LATE TEAM SHEET	Up to £25.00
11 (A) (xii)	FAILURE TO ERASE PLAYERS FROM THE MATCH RESULT CARD WHO HAVE NOT PLAYED IN THE MATCH	£10.00 per player
11 (A) (xiii)	FAILURE TO SUBMT CORRECTLY FILLED IN MATCH RESULT CARD	Up to £25.00
11 (B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£10.00
11 (E)	FAILURE TO NOTIFY "OTHER" FIXTURE RESULTS TO FIXTURE SECRETARY	£10.00
13 (B)	FAILURE TO AGREE A REFEREE	£20.00
13 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£5.00
13 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES	£10.00
13 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£10.00
13 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£10.00
14 (A)	TEAM WITHDRAWING PRIOR TO THE AGM	£15.00
14 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE OR COMPLETE FIXTURES	£25.00
18 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£10.00
18 (A) (i)	FAILURE TO RETURN TROPHY BY FIRST TUESDAY IN MARCH	£10.00 per week
19	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING	£25.00
22 (A) & (B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£25.00
23	FAILURE TO SUBMIT FIRST AID DETAILS TO THE SECRETARY	£10.00
CUP RULE 2 (D)	FAILURE TO COMPLETE A MATCH	Up to £25.00
CUP RULE 3 (C)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	Up to £25.00
CUP RULE 10	FAILURE TO SHARE COST OF REFEREES MATCH FEES	Up to £10.00