

GARSTON VETERANS OVER 35s FRIENDLY LEAGUE

LEAGUE RULES SEASON 2018/2019

The following League Officials shall operate for the 2018/19 season

Secretary: John Walker 07976 421770

Assistant Secretary: Dan Jacobs 07796 270854

Fixtures Secretary: Theo Simou 07748 760 310

Disputes and Disciplinary Panel: John Walker, Theo Simou and Dan Jacobs

Referees Secretary: John Feenstra 07500 837 755

Web-site

The web-site **garstonvfl.com** will be maintained by Dan Jacobs.

Dan will endeavour to update the web-site as soon as is practicable and when all results have been received. The web-site will contain league standings, cup details, suspended players and other general information.

THE LEAGUE COMPETITION

The league shall be known as the "Garston Veterans Over 35s Friendly League".

The league is affiliated to Hertfordshire Football Association.

All clubs must be affiliated to their county FA if they wish to participate in the League. Clubs that are affiliated to Herts FA can also take part in the Veterans County Cup.

The subscription fee for the 2018/2019 League and Garston League Cup competition will be £80 per team.

All fees to be paid to the Secretary prior to 7th June. This one off fee will cover expected administrative costs, as well as mementos for the winners of the league and the two cup finalists.

The season shall begin on Sunday 9th September.

POWERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

(A) 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.

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).

With the exception of Teams playing at Step 7 of the National League System, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

The maximum fine permitted for a breach of a Rule by a Team playing at Step 7 of the National League System is £500.

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.

Subject to a Club's right of appeal, 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. Fines to be paid to Sort code 30-99-21 account number 00330626

INSURANCE

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

(B) All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition Match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the Sanctioning Authority. In instances where The FA is the Sanctioning Authority, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates.

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

PLAYER CRITERIA

All clubs must field players aged over 35 years of age. Should any team field a player aged under 35 then it shall inform the opposing team prior to the game and concede the relevant fixture with a 0-0 score line.

Players are not permitted to represent more than one team in either the League or the Garston League Cup in any one season. For the avoidance of doubt, players may represent a different side in the County cup competitions from their league side, subject to County Cup rules.

All teams must submit a list of players with their contact details to the Management Committee prior to the start of the season. The list should be updated by the Teams with additional players throughout the season. It is the responsibility of Clubs to ensure that a player is not suspended from football, for whatever reason, before any player participates in a match.

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

(A) All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.

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

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

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. 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 (C).

(B) All Competition Matches outside of the NLS shall have duration of 80 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than sixty (60) minutes) is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves. Two matches involving the same two Teams can be played on the same day providing the total playing time is not more than 120 minutes.

All matches will be played on Sunday mornings with kick-off times between 10:30am and 11am. Any deviations from this are to be agreed by both teams prior to the previous Sunday and the Fixtures Secretary is to be informed. The away team is not obliged to accept a change of time.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition. Any team causing a delay to the kick-off time by more than 15 minutes past the agreed kickoff time will be fined £10.

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.

Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally fixed.

The Fixtures Secretary shall prioritise cup games ahead of league fixtures for the following cup competitions: Garston League Cup, Middlesex FA Vets County Cup, Hertfordshire FA Vets County Cup, The London FA Cup and the Essex FA Vets County cup (together 'Recognised Cups'). Teams are expected to enter no more than one County cup. Teams entering additional competitions must arrange to play these games on dates which do not disrupt league fixtures. The Fixtures Secretary will endeavour to accommodate all reasonable requests for alternative fixtures and if sufficient notice is provided. 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 match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).

(C) An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club no later than the Sunday 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 will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(D) In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the minimum number of Players that will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is 7. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

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.

In the event of bad weather rendering their pitch unplayable, the home team must contact the opposition as soon as possible and an attempt should be made to reverse the fixture before agreeing to postpone the game even if the 'away' fixture has already been played.

Cancellation of fixtures is only permitted for bad weather (cancellations by groundsman or referees only) and Recognised Cups commitments. Failure to fulfil a fixture will see the offending club forfeiting the match with a 0-0 score line. The Fixtures Secretary should be informed immediately on 07748 760 310. Failing to fulfil a fixture will incur a £30 fine. Failure to fulfil three fixtures in the same season will result in the offending side's registration being cancelled and all previous results of that team will be expunged, subject to them having completed 75% of their fixtures.

Teams may make a request in writing to the Fixtures Secretary for a blank week. This must be done at least four weeks in advance.

If a Club wish to postpone a fixture, they must inform The Management Committee by in writing at least 14 days prior to the game, if agreed the fixture will be postponed and the opposition team will be informed. Failure to provide at least 14 days' notice will result in a 0-0 victory to their opponents.

If a fixture is cancelled due to reasons beyond the control of either team, such as an unplayable pitch, the home Team must inform the Management Committee.

The Management Committee will try to provide re-arranged dates for Postponed / Abandoned games but in recognition of the fact that this may not be possible the fixtures will be treated as 0-0 draws.

(F) (i) In the event of a Competition Match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the (Fixtures) Secretary within 7 days the Management Committee shall have the power to order the 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.

(ii) 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, with a score of 0-0. 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.

(iii) 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 at the discretion of the Management Committee. Where both Teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

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

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

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

(J) A buffet after the match sufficient for players and officials of both clubs is encouraged. If catering facilities are not available; the home team is encouraged to buy their opponents a beverage after the game in order to promote the 'friendly' nature of our league.

CLUB COLOURS

All teams must declare a home kit and should have a back-up option if required

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

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

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials. No Player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.

Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeepers jersey) at least the Sunday before the Competition Match.

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

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

REPORTING RESULTS

The result of each match must be sent through by both sides via SMS to the Secretary on 07976 421770 no later than 8pm on the day of the match. Failing to send through the result within the set time will incur a £5 fine.

The names of players receiving any red or yellow cards (for either side) as well as details of late kickoffs must be reported along with the results as set out above. Players serving suspensions for upcoming fixtures will be shown on the League web-site: **garstonvfl.com**

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

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 shall be determined by the combined results of their two league matches will determine the winner. If in the head to head league points between these teams is equal, then goal difference in their two league games will determine the winner. If the records of two or more Teams are still equal and it is necessary for any reason to determine the position of each then the Teams affected shall play a deciding match or matches under conditions as determined by the Management Committee.

If a team withdraws from the League without fulfilling at least 75% of its fixtures all previous results of that team will be expunged. The offending team shall also be fined £50.

TROPHY

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

“We (A) (name) and (B) (name), the Chairman and Secretary of [] FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of cup or trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before end of February. 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.”

The ‘Cup’ is the property of the League and must be returned when new winners are determined. Any team winning a competition must return the annual trophy to the Secretary, engraved and in good condition by the end of February. Should a trophy be returned in poor condition or not engraved a fine of at least £20 (or the costs to make good the damages if greater) will be levied.

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

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

DISPUTES, PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

Disputes between teams are to be discouraged based on the friendly intention of our league. Should teams be unable to settle a dispute, this is to be reported to the Panel as necessary.

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.

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.

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 2 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.

REFEREES

(A) Registered referees (and assistant referees where approved by The FA or County FA) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.

(B) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee the appointed senior assistant referee (if applicable) shall take charge and a substitute assistant referee appointed by the competing Teams. In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match.

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

(D) The appointed referee shall have 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 of £40 inclusive of travel expenses.

Match Officials will be paid their fees by the home Club immediately after the Competition Match. 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 half fee. Where a Competition Match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(G) A referee not keeping his or her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated 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 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) Match Officials shall be supplied, each season with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge from the Fixture Secretary.

DISCIPLINARY

(A) Any disciplinary matters must be reported to the Secretary without undue delay after the game by the captains or managers of both teams. The Secretary will report any such incident to The Hertfordshire F.A. and we shall abide by their Disciplinary Powers under the Misconduct Rule E1(a).

(B) The sanction guidelines for red card offences (which can be found in the FA's disciplinary handbook) are listed below:

- Serious Four play 3 matches
- Violent conduct 3 matches
- Spitting at an opponent 6 matches
- Denies obvious goal 1 match
- use of offensive language 2 matches
- two yellow cards 1 match

Additional rules for the Garston League Cup

(A) Additional teams may be invited to participate in our cup competition by the League Officials. The entry fee for this will be £30.

(B) Matches shall be 40 minutes each way in duration with ten minutes each way extra time if scores are level. If the scores remain level after extra time a penalty shootout will determine the winners.

(C). If a team withdraws from a Cup fixture they will be fined £30 and the other team will be awarded a bye through to the next round.

(D). The away team must cover the referee's expenses with the home team responsible for the costs of the pitch and the buffet.

(E). The League Officials will choose the seeded teams for the first round, in order to deduce the appropriate number of teams for round two.

(F). The draw shall be made at the AGM.

FINES

For the avoidance of doubt the following fines will apply.

All fines to be paid to the following bank account: Sort code 30-99-21 account number 00330626

- Failing to send through the result within the set time; fine of £5.
- Kicking off later than 15 minutes past the agreed kick-off time; fine of £10.

- Abandoned match for disciplinary related reasons by the referee; fine of £30.
- Withdrawal from the league without fulfilling at least 75% of fixtures; fine of £50.
- Withdrawal from a Garston League fixture or a Garston League Cup fixture; fine of £30.
- Damage to a trophy or failing to engrave; fine £20 (or the costs to make good the damages if greater)
- Teams will also be liable to pay directly to their local football associations for Red and Yellow card fines.

Failure to pay any fine within 30 days will result in a deduction of one league point for those teams in our League, and a non-payment report will be sent to the Country Association for non league teams.

Anything not covered by these rules will be decided by The Management Committee, whose decision is final.

----- End -----