

H.G.F.P.L. HANDBOOK 2018-2019

Website: - www.hgfpl.co.uk

Established 2008

H.G.F.P.L. Committee Members

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Treasurer	Colin Janes	treasurer.hgfpl@gmail.com
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Referee Secretary	Norman Appleby	normappleby@hotmail.com
Results Secretary	Vacant	results.hgfpl@gmail.com

Notes to Secretaries and Managers

1. CONTACT WITH THE LEAGUE

Contact with the league must be from the Club Secretary to the league secretary. This will avoid unnecessary correspondence as the Club Secretary should know most of the answers.

Exceptions are as follows:

- a) Monies owed, Club Secretaries to contact the League Treasurer
- b) Child Welfare Issues, Club Secretaries to contact League Welfare Officer and CWO
- c) Any Fixtures with in the season, Club Secretaries and Managers to contact Fixtures Secretary
- d) All discipline matters, Club Secretaries to contact the Fines Officer
- e) Referee queries, Club secretaries or Managers to contact the Referee Secretary

2. MATCHES

- a) Home team must contact the opposition to confirm the fixture no later than 9pm four days before the match (i.e. 9pm Tuesday for a Saturday fixture, 9pm Friday for a Tuesday fixture)
- b) Home teams must notify the opposition and referee of a postponement as soon as possible. You must get confirmation from them that they have received the message.
- c) In the case of a match being postponed, the HOME team must notify the fixtures secretary by 6pm via email on the day of the fixture as per league rules.
- d) If a team is unable to fulfil a fixture for any reason, they must notify the opposition and fixtures secretary.
- e) Midweek fixtures can be changed by mutual agreement of both teams. This must be prior to the original set date and both

teams must email the fixtures secretary to confirm. This must be as done as soon as possible so that full-time can be amended.

- f) Referees that are not appointed by the league must be qualified and registered with the County FA. Their details must be provided on the result card for the league.
- g) Both teams must provide and assistant referee (linesperson) for 9 a-side and 11 a-side matches.
- h) **PLAYER REGISTRATION CARDS MUST** be shown to the opposition Manager prior to ALL matches, failure to produce cards will be dealt with by the league committee and will result in the opposition being awarded the match.
- i) BOTH teams must send their result to the league via the SMS message service by 6pm on the day of the Match. If you do not receive the SMS text to respond to, then you MUST email the result to the fixtures secretary.
- j) **BOTH** teams must complete the electronic result card on Full-time by 9pm three days after the day of the Match. This is a league rule that will result in a fine if not completed.
- k) Home team is responsible for payment of the referee, this must be done as soon as the match is finished.
- l) Home team to supply the Match ball and assistant referee flags.
- m) Observe the rules on Free Week requests to avoid disappointment on them being unapproved.

3. REGISTRATION

- a) Player registration will be through the Whole Game System.
- b) All player information must be uploaded on to the Whole Game System by the Clubs nominated registration secretary. League requirements are clearly marked out. Once entered you must submit to the League for approval.
- c) Once players have been approved by the league, the League will supply the Club with a player registration card.

- d) Players must be registered with the league to play any fixtures.
Any queries can be addressed via email to the Registration Secretary.

4. CONTACT DETAILS

- a) Any changes to Club Members MUST be notified to the League General Secretary immediately.
- b) Any changes to the Team Managers must be notified to the General secretary so that the League directory can be amended.
Failure to do this can cause delays in fixtures being arranged and can cause fines.

5. INFORMATION

- a) All League documents will be available on the Full-time website.
- b) League handbook will be electronic, hard copies can be requested by Club Secretaries to the League General Secretary.
- c) Responses to League communication is essential
- d) Clubs must attend League meetings.

Notes on County and League Cups

Most Clubs will participate in the County Cup during the season. These matches will take precedent over all league fixtures

1. Please ensure the Fixtures Secretary is informed of your affiliated County FA fixtures to ensure League fixtures are arranged as necessary.
2. Full time result text must be replied to as specified.
3. All teams will compete in the League Cup (excluding child-friendly age groups).
4. Teams who do not progress through their first fixture of the League Cup will participate in the League Shield (if the league has decided to run a Shield Competition for that age group). Cup and shields can be knock out or group stages determined by the committee.
5. Referees and Assistant Referees (for 9 and 11 a side) will be allocated by the league for all League Cup and Shield Semi-Finals and Finals. Referees will be supplied for all 7 a side Semi-Finals and Finals.
6. Players who have transferred between teams/clubs having represented their previous team/club in any League Cup/Shield fixture in that season will not be eligible to play for their new team/club in the same competition in the same season. If a team plays an ineligible player in a League Cup/Shield fixture that team will be immediately removed from the Competition and the tie will be awarded to the opposition. If a player has transferred between teams having represented their team in any League Cup fixture in that season, they WILL be eligible to play for their new team in any League Shield match in the same season. This also applies to a player who has played in a League Shield match for their previous team – they WILL be eligible to represent their new team in any League Cup match in the same season.

7. (Any team playing an ineligible player in a League Cup or Shield tie will be immediately removed from the Competition and the tie will be awarded to the opposition. The offending team may be fined a maximum of £35 and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee

Timings for knock-out cup ties will be:-

Age Group	Minutes each way	Extra Time
Under 12	25 mins	10 minutes
Under 13	30 mins	10 minutes
Under 14	30 mins	10 minutes
Under 15	35 mins	10 minutes
Under 16	35 mins	10 minutes
Under 17	40 mins	10 minutes
Under 18	40 mins	10 minutes

Extra time will be played as 2 equal halves of 5 minutes with an immediate change of ends at half-time.

If scores are level at end of extra time 5 penalties will be taken by each team.

If scores remain level after extra time and 5 penalties sudden death penalties will be taken.

For Cup/Shield matches that are NOT knock-out ties, timings as per league match timings.

Ball sizes as per HGFPL Rules

Pitch sizes as per HGFPL Rules

Referee fees as per HGFPL Rules

Assistant referees will be allocated by the League for all 9 a Side & 11 a Side League Cup and Shield Finals.

HGFPL Rules 2018-2019

RULE 1: DEFINITIONS

(A) In these Rules:

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

“AGM” shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

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

“Competition” means the The Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League.

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

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

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

“Fees Tariff” means a list of fees approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any matters for which fees are payable under the Rules, as set out in Schedule A.

“Fines Tariff” means a list of fines approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any breach of the Rules, as set out in Schedule A.

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

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

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

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

“Non Contract Player” means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play for a Club but has not entered into a written contract of employment.

“Officer” means an individual who is appointed or elected to a position in a Club or Competition which requires that individual to make day to day decisions.

“Participant” shall have the same meaning as set out in the rules of The FA from time to time.

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

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

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

“Sanctioning Authority” means The Hertfordshire County Football Association Limited.

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

“Season” means the period of time between an AGM and the subsequent AGM.

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

“SGM” means a Special General Meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the competition.

“Team” means a team affiliated to a Club, including where a Club provides more than one team in the Competition in accordance with the Rules.

“The FA” means The Football Association Limited.

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

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

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

- (B) Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

GOVERNANCE RULES

RULE 2 COMPETITION NAME AND CONSTITUTION

- (A) The Competition will be known as The Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.
- (B) This Competition shall consist of not more than 60 clubs or 300 teams approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be Hertfordshire unless dispensation has been granted outside of that.
- (D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Competition acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA
- (E) All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation thereto, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.
- (F) The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules (the "Standard Code") determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.

- (G) All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date in the manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

~~N.B. Any club outside of Hertfordshire wishing to join must have reasons covered by the FA Rules and Regulations of the Association establishment operation of the women's football pyramid and girls' football rules. For clarification please contact parent FA~~

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Hertfordshire County Football Association and the constituent teams of member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 12 in number.

- (H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

- (i) The Competition and each member Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (to include those contained in the Equality Act 2010).
- (ii) This Competition and each member Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.
- (iii) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.

- (I) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including but not limited to, Charter Standard and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (J) All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The FA from time to time.
- (K) Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing at a particular age group in the Competition in any other competition (with the exception of FA and County FA Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (L) At the AGM or SGM 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 22
- (M) The League requires all players, parents/guardians and club officials to have signed the FA Respect Codes of Conduct and produce these if so requested by the management committee. As part of the League Respect Campaign full compliance of all the following areas is to be complied with all at all League, Cup and Shield matches:-

Prior to each match the participating teams and officials shall conduct the Respect handshake and to offer handshakes at the end.

Each home teams shall make arrangements for the provision of a designated area for spectators. This area can be marked by an additional painted line, the use of cones, a roped off area can be used as a temporary spectator barrier. The area for spectators should start 2 metres from the touchline on both sides of the

pitch. It is recognised however that the alignment of some public pitches does not allow for this arrangement in which case other appropriate arrangements should be made.

Match delegates must be made known to all officials and opposing managers/ match delegates before the start of the game and must be wearing the HGFPL high-viz jacket.

RULE 3:CLUB NAME

Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority and from the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

RULE 4:ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT.

- (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club must be made on the intentions form provided in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an entry fee 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.

If a team withdraws after the date of the AGM and before the start of the scheduled season, the Club will be liable for 50% of the Entry fee.

- (B) The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club (or per Team where a Club provides more than one Team in membership of the Competition) and shall be payable on or before the leagues deadline in each year.
- (C) A Deposit of £50 shall be payable per Club on joining the HGFPL. This deposit will be returnable to clubs on leaving the completion provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the management committee.
- (D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription and Deposit (if required) have been paid.
- (E) If requested by the Competition, Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 31st July of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (F) All payments to the competition must be made in the form of an electronic payment or cheque drawn on the clubs account. No cash will be accepted

RULE 5: MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

- (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and a maximum 12 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 30th April 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 30th April in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.
- (C) The Management Committee shall meet as and when required, save that no more than three calendar months shall pass between each meeting.
- On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee.
- (D) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.
- (E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

RULE 6: POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

- (A) The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association.
- (B) Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any Club which may have withdrawn during the season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the season.
- (C) Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote thereat, but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall 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.
- (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 must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.

With the exception of Rules 6(I), 8(H) and 9, for all alleged breaches of a Rule, the Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given 7 days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a Club may :-

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

Where the Club charged fails to respond within 7 days, the Management Committee shall determine the charge in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.

Where required, hearings shall take place as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the reply of the Club as more fully set out above.

Having considered the reply of the Club (whether in writing or at a hearing), the Management Committee shall make its decision and, in the event that the charge is accepted or proven, decide on the appropriate penalty (with reference to the Fines Tariff where applicable).

The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £100 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances. No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of The FA shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by the appropriate Association.

- (E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.
Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.
- (F) 50 % of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business 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 must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).
- (I) Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision.
Any Club failing to do so will be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff). Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.
- (J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.

- (K) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition of the Playing Season.
- (L) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail.

RULE 7: PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

- (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 will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the match. Referees must notify the General Secretary of any pitch objections made within three days of the match
- (B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within 7 days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of the Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

- (C) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.
- (D) All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.
- (i) All parties must have received 14 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
 - (ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should forward a deposit of £10 and indicate such when forwarding the written response.
- (E) The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.
- (F) Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fees Tariff, which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the appeal must also be sent to the Secretary. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority, in such respect the Sanctioning Authority may (but is not obliged to):
- (i) Invite submissions by the parties involved;
 - (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.

(G) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

RULE 8: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(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 65% 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 Season.

(v) Election of Officers of the Competition and Management Committee Members.

(vi) Appointment of Auditors.

(vii) Alteration of Rules, if any (See Rule 14).

(viii) Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.

(ix) Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season.

(x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.

(B) A copy of the duly verified Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting together with any proposed rule changes.

- (C) A signed copy of the duly verified Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM.
- (D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. 14 days' notice shall be given of any AGM.
- (E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Season being concluded. *This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 12.*
- (F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.
- (G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.
- (H) Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).
- (I) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM.
- (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.

RULE 9: SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

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

The Management Committee may call a SGM at any time.

At least 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 Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGM's.

Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

Any Club failing to be represented at a SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGM's.

RULE 10: AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

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

We (A) (name) _____
of (Address) _____ (Chairman/Director)
and (B) (name) _____
of (Address) _____ (Secretary/Director)
of the _____ Football Club (Ltd)
have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.

The agreement shall be signed by:

- (i) Where a Club is an unincorporated association, the Club Chairman and secretary; or
- (ii) Where a Club is an incorporated entity, two directors of the Club.

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

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

RULE 11: CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

- (A) Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing by 31st March each season. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (B) The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including but not limited to, issuing a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).
- (C) Any Officer or member of a Club proved guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a Player or Players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of clause (A) and/or (B) of this Rule

RULE 12: EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, TEAMS, MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- (A) At the AGM or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the agenda by direction of the Management Committee, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to: (i) remove a member of the Management Committee from office; (ii) exclude any Club or Team from membership, both of which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A member of the Management Committee or Club which is the subject of the vote being taken or shall be excluded from voting.
- (B) At the AGM, or at a SGM called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- (C) Any Officer or member of a Club proved guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a Player or Players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (A) and (B) of this Rule.

RULE 13: TROPHY

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

“We (A) _____
and (B) _____,
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 31st 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 will result in a fine (in accordance with the
Fines Tariff).

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

RULE 14 : ALTERATIONS TO RULES

Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at a SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31st March in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 15th April and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 1st May. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA (as applicable) at least 7 days prior to the date of the meeting.

RULE 15: FINANCE

- (A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
- (B) All expenditure in excess of £250 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.
- (C) The financial year of the Competition will end on 31st March.
- (D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be verified annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

RULE 16: INSURANCE

- (A) All Clubs must have valid public liability insurance cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.
 - (B) All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition 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 this Rule 16 (a) or 16 (b) will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

RULE 17: DISSOLUTION

- (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.
- (B) In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.
- (C) The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:
 - (i) Any surplus assets, save for a Trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Authority.
 - (ii) If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a Trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the Donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Sanctioning Authority may decide.

MATCH RELATED RULES

RULE 18: QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

- (a) registered through WGS.

Any registration form which is sent by either of the means set out at Rules 18(A) (i)(a) or (b) above that is not fully and correctly completed will 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 will not be processed.

For Clubs registering Players under Rules 18(A) (i) (a) or (b) registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition. For Clubs registering Players via WGS (under Rule 18 (A) (i) (c)) Clubs must 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 in a Competition Match. The original document must be forwarded by post to the appropriate Officer of the Competition within three days of the Competition Match

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

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

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

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

- (iii) Each Club must have the following number of Players registered 30 days before the start of each Playing Season:

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

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

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

The relevant age for each Player is determined by his or her age as at midnight on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season i.e. children who are aged 6 as at midnight on 31 August in a Playing Season (together with those who attain the age of 6 during the Playing Season) will be classed as Under 7 Players for that Playing Season. Children who are aged 7 as at midnight on 31 August in a Playing Season will be classed as Under 8 Players for that Playing Season, and so on.

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

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 Playing Season 2017-18	Eligible Age Groups	HGFL Maximum Permitted	HGFL Format	Maximum Pitch Sizes		Maximum Pitch Sizes		Recommended Goal Sizes in feet	Ball Size
				Yards	Metres	Yards	Metres		
7	Under 8	5v5	5v5	30x20	27.45 x 18.3	40x30	36.3 x 27.45	12x6	3
	Under 9	5v5		50x30	45.75 x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	
8	Under 9	5v5	5v5	50x30	45.75 x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	3
	Under 10	7v7	7v7	50x30	45.75 x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	4
9	Under 10	7v7	7v7	50x30	45.75 x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	4
	Under 11	7v7		70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	
10	Under 11	7v7	7v7	70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
	Under 12	9v9	9v9	70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	
11	Under 12	9v9	9v9	70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
	Under 13	9v9		90x50	82.3x45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	
12	Under 13	9v9	9v9	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
	Under 14	11v11	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	
13	Under 14	11v11	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	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	
15	Under 16	11v11	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	
	Under 18			100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	
16	Under 17	11v11	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	
	Open Age			100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	

(D) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered, if applicable or for replacement player cards.

(E) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes taking into account the following.

(i) A Player shall not be permitted to register for more than one Club subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) below.

(ii) In the event of a Player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club priority of registration shall decide for which Club the Player shall be registered. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the Player of the fact of the previous registration subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) below.

(iii) A Player is only permitted to register for more than one Club provided that:

a. The Team(s) in which the Player plays in are not in the same age group; or

b. Except for the purpose of a transfer.

And the Player meets the requirements in Rule 18(C).

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

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

(ii) Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season, except for the provisions set out in Rule 18€(iii) apply.

(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 will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(G) (i) The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rule 18(G)(ii) and (iii) below.

(ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player, the exercise of such power being without prejudice to the Management Committee's ability to fine a Club at its discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) that has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).

(iii) The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. Where the Management Committee does not have enough information to enable it to make a decision pursuant to the above power, it may apply, in its absolute discretion, to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA for further information.

Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.

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

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

(H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule 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 Competition accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fees Tariff. Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the Club for which the Player is registered. Should this Club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the Player concerned within 7 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 7 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the Player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date as when they are in receipt of the registrations card.

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

- (I) A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 28th February 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 Team in an age group, each Team must be clearly identifiable **but not designated 'A' or 'B' or 1st or 2nd**. Players will be registered for one Team only with the exception within the HGFPL competition for age groups U8s, U9s, U10s and U11s, a player maybe registered jointly for two teams in the same age group.

- (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 Playing Season only.

In the event of a Non-Contract Player changing his status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a Club in another Competition his registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 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 22(A) unless the Player has played 2 league games for that Team in this Competition in the current Playing Season.

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

(M) Not applicable

- (N) (i) Subject to Rule 18(N)(ii), any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a competition match or matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that competition match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

- (ii) The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18(N)(i) only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.

- (iii) Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible player in accordance with Rule 18(N)(i) above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion:

- (a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed;
- (b) Levy penalty points against the Club in default; or
- (c) Order that such competition match or matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

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

- (O) (i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with the head teachers (except for Sunday League Competitions).
- (iii) A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August in the relevant Playing Season, shall not be permitted to play in a Competition Match during that Playing Season where any other Player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.
- (P) Registration cards of all players must be given to the opposing team for checking prior to every HGFPL match. Proven failure to do so will result in a fine being issued (in accordance with the fines tariff). In the event of one or both teams being unable to produce their registration cards the match is to be played and both clubs are required to submit a written report within 24 hours to the General Secretary detailing the full circumstances for the non-production of the cards. Any individual players whose cards are not made available will not be permitted to participate in the match.
- (Q) It is the responsibility of the team manager to ensure minimum squad size is registered by the last age relevant registration evening of each season. Failure to register sufficient players will result in the team being liable to a fine for non-compliance of league business (in accordance with the fines tariff) 31st August 2018.

(R) Each 5 a side team shall be restricted to a squad of 10 players

Each 7 a side team shall be restricted to a squad of 14 players

Each 9 a side team shall be restricted to a squad of 16 players

Each 11 a side team shall be restricted to a squad of 18 players

Any additional registrations will subject to approval by the Management Committee who will allow discretion subject to the circumstances.

RULE 19: CLUB COLOURS

Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by the last player registration evening of each season, 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 goalkeeper jersey) at least 5 days before the Competition match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the *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 in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Competition Matches should be played in accordance with the Laws appropriate to the relevant age group, as laid down by The FA, as detailed below.

Age Group	Minimum duration of play per 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

HGFPL Timings

Age group	Format	Duration of play	Ball size
Under 8	5v5	20 minutes each way	3
Under 9	5v5	20 minutes each way	3
Under 10	7v7	25 minutes each way	4
Under 11	7v7	30 minutes each way	4
Under 12	7v7	30 minutes each way	4
Under 12	9v9	30 minutes each way	4
Under 13	9v9	35 minutes each way	4
Under 14	9v9	35 minutes each way	4
Under 14	11v11	35 minutes each way	4
Under 15	11v11	40 minutes each way	5
Under 16	11v11	40 minutes each way	5
Under 17	11v11	45 minutes each way	5
Under 18	11v11	45 minutes each way	5

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

For trophy events, the Competition may award mementos.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs prior to the scheduled date of the competition match with written notification given to the Fixtures Secretary at least 5 days prior.

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

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 Tarif.

(B) Except by permission of the Management Committee all

Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally fixed

but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a competition match with the consent of the Fixtures Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

- (C) An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the group and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and an officer of the opposing Club at least 4 clear days prior to the playing of the competition match. (i.e. by 9pm on the previous Tuesday for Saturday matches) The opposing team must acknowledge receipt of such particulars. If not so provided, the away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (D) The minimum number of Players that will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is as follows:

FORMAT	MINIMUM NUMBER
5v5	4
7v7	5
9v9	6
11v11	7

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

- (E) (i) In Competitions where points are awarded home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep

its engagement the Management Committee shall have the power to impose a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the competition match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals.

Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a competition match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's Ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

(ii) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a competition match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Fixtures Secretary, the Competition Referees, Appointments Secretary, the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials. The opposing club must acknowledge receipt of notification. Both teams must also reply to the Full-Time text **P-P** for all postponed games and the club calling the postponement must email the fixtures secretary by 6pm on the day of the postponement (or 9pm on midweek games) with reason for postponement

(iii) In the event of a competition match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall 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 14 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.

Match Official Charges. The home club shall take the whole of the proceeds of the second competitive match.

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

- (iv) The Management Committee shall review all Competition Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a Competition Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the Competition Match to the opponent. In cases where a Competition Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Competition Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Competition Match.
- (v) The Management Committee shall review any Competition Match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by The FA or Affiliated Association. In each case the Team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 18(N)(i) above. Where both Teams were under suspension the Competition Match must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.
- (vi) A team which fails to fulfil three or more fixtures during a season may have their future fixtures postponed until the club concerned submits a written explanation to the management committee as to the reasons for its non-fulfilment of its fixtures.

The report should be submitted within seven days to the general secretary in any event. Failure to do so may result in further action being taken.

(vii) All teams will be granted 2 free weeks between the school half term in October and the end of the season if required. Each free week request should be made on the appropriate form and submitted to the fixtures secretary at least 21 days prior to the date of the proposed fixture. No requests will be processed after the 28th February

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

Where a Competition does not allow repeat substitutes:

For Under 17s and Under 18s – a club may name up to 7 substitute Players of whom no more than 5 may be used.

Where a Competition does allow repeat substitutes:

For Under 11s - Under 16s - a Club may use up to 5 from 5 substitute players. A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace any Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

ALL SUBSTITUTES MUST BE USED AND INJURY ASIDE MUST PLAY 50% OF THE TOTAL Game TIME

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

ALL SUBSTITUTES MUST BE USED AND INJURY ASIDE MUST PLAY 50% OF THE TOTAL Game TIME

In Youth Football only, the referee shall be informed of the names of the substitute Players not later than 10 minutes before the start of the Competition match and a Player not so named may not take part in the Competition match.

A Player who has been named as a substitute before the start of the Competition match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a Player in that Competition match within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition.

(G) The half time interval shall be of 5 minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee. For double header matches the interval between the 2 matches shall be a minimum of 10 minutes but shall not exceed 20 minutes

(H) The Teams taking part in Under 7's to U11 or Youth Football shall identify a Team captain who shall wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her team mates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

RULE 21: REPORTING RESULTS

- (A) The Results Secretary must receive within 3 days of the date played, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner, ie online completion of result card on Full-Time. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) and also the referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to do so will incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (B) Both Clubs shall SMS the result of each Competition match to the automated text message by 6pm on day of match. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine 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 comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (D) The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect but NOT publish results or any grading tables for fixtures involving Under 7s, Under 8s, Under 9s, Under 10s, and Under 11s. Any Competition failing to abide by this Rule will be dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and any Club failing to abide by this Rule will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect and publish results for trophy events.

RULE 22: DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

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

In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings may be determined by deciding a match played under conditions determined by a deciding match or matches played under conditions determined by the Management Committee, or the position shared.

RULE 23: MATCH OFFICIALS

- (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:
- (i) Referee appointed by the League
 - (ii) Home team secure independent registered qualified (level 9 upwards) referee from the league provided spreadsheet
 - (iii) Home team secure independent registered qualified (level 9 upwards) referee
 - (iv) Away team secure independent registered qualified (level 9 upwards) referee
 - (v) Home team secure registered qualified (level 9 upwards) referee

- (vi) Both teams agree on a suitable person to officiate the match.
- (B) In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a Referee or Assistant Referee in any open age competition and individuals under the age of 14 must not participate either as a Referee or Assistant Referee in any competition match. Referees between the ages of 14 and 16 are only eligible to officiate in competitions where the players' age band is at least one year younger than the age of the Referee, for example a 15 year old Referee may only officiate in competitions where the age banding is 14 or younger.
- (C) Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee. Failure to do so will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff being imposed on the defaulting Club.
- (D) The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition matches and the decision shall be final subject to 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 Association, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff inclusive of travel expenses.
- Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the home Club immediately after the Competition match unless otherwise ordered by the Management Committee. Failure to

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

- (F) In the event of a 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 the Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (G) A referee not keeping his or her engagement and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the 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 online result form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.
- (I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Playing Season, shall submit a summary to The FA/County FA.
- (K) Match Officials shall be supplied, each Playing Season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.
- (L) Match Officials shall have undertaken a RESPECT briefing offered by The FA/County FA or the League.

Fees for Match Officials

5 a side:	£15
7 a side:	£20
U12 & U13:	£22
U14, U15 & U16:	£25
U18:	£30

GUIDELINES FOR DOUBLE HEADERS

A double header will be played at the opposition venue to any previous league fixture played in the same season.

If no league fixture has been previously played, then the venue will be by alphabetical listing of clubs.

Arrangements for kick off times, referee booking etc must be made as per normal HGFPL rules.

Please ensure you allow for longer playing time and rest between games when booking pitches. The interval between the two games must be no less than 10 minutes and no more than 20 minutes.

Referee fees will be split between both teams.

Both games must be treated as separate games and result cards/replies to Full Time text must be submitted for both games as per HGFPL rules.

Age Group	Timings	Ref Fee per team
Under 10	N/A	
Under 11	N/A	
Under 12	2 games @20 minutes each way	£15.00
Under 13	2 games @ 25 minutes each way	£15.00
Under 14	2 games @ 25 minutes each way	£16.50
Under 15	2 games @ 25 minutes each way	£16.50
Under 16	2 games @ 25 minutes each way	£16.50
Under 18	2 games @ 27.5 minutes each way	£19.00

GUIDELINES FOR MIDWEEK GAMES

Midweek games can be arranged at any time during the season. The Fixtures Secretary will give at least 5 days' notice of such games.

Midweek matches will be scheduled on a specified date but, if both teams are in agreement, the match can be played on a different day within the same week. Home team managers should contact opposition within 24 hours of notice from Fixtures Secretary to agree day and timing for game which is agreeable to both teams. If a day cannot be agreed by both teams the Management Committee will decide which day the game will be played and at which venue.

If both teams agree to play the midweek match on a different day, both teams must inform the Fixtures Secretary as soon as possible. If notification is not received from both teams by the Fixtures Secretary at least 24 hours before kick-off, disciplinary action may be taken.

Full Time result text must be replied to in the normal manner by 9pm on day of game.

Electronic result cards must be completed in normal manner by 9pm after 3 days the game.

Respect Code of Conduct

Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

In The FA's survey of 37,000 grassroots participants, behaviour was the biggest concern in the game. This included the abuse of match officials and the unacceptable behaviour of over competitive parents, spectators and coaches on the side-line.

Play your part and observe The Football Association's Respect Code of Conduct in everything you do.

On and off the field, I will:

- Show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, opposition players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators
- Adhere to the laws and spirit of the game
- Promote Fair Play and high standards of behaviour
- Always respect the match official's decision
- Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour.

When working with players, I will:

- Place the well-being, safety and enjoyment of each player above everything, including winning
- Explain exactly what I expect of players and what they can expect from me
- Ensure all parents/carers of all players under the age of 18 understand these expectations
- Never engage in or tolerate any form of bullying
- Develop mutual trust and respect with every player to build their self-esteem
- Encourage each player to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance

- Ensure all activities I organise are appropriate for the players' ability level, age and maturity
- Co-operate fully with others in football (e.g. officials, doctors, physiotherapists, welfare officers) for each player's best interests.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA, league or The FA:

- Required to meet with the club, league or County Welfare Officer
- Required to meet with the club committee
- Monitored by another club coach
- Required to attend an FA education course
- Suspended by the club from attending matches
- Suspended or fined by the County FA
- Required to leave or be sacked by the club.

In addition:

- My FACA (FA Coaches Association) membership may be withdrawn.

Spectators and Parents/Carers

- Remember that children play for FUN
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success
- Always respect the match officials' decisions
- Remain outside the field of play and within the Designated Spectators' Area (where provided)
- Let the coach do their job and not confuse the players by telling them what to do
- Encourage the players to respect the opposition, referee and match officials
- Avoid criticising a player for making a mistake – mistakes are part of learning
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, or abusive language or behaviour.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA, league or The FA:

I may be:

- Issued with a verbal warning from a club or league official

- Required to meet with the club, league or County FA Welfare Officer
- Required to meet with the club committee
- Obligated to undertake an FA education course
- Obligated to leave the match venue by the club
- Requested by the club not to attend future games
- Suspended or have my club membership removed
- Required to leave the club along with any dependents.

In addition:

- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on the club.

Young Players

- Always play to the best of my ability
- Play fairly – I won't cheat, complain or waste time
- Respect my team-mates, the other team, the referee or my coach/manager
- Play by the rules, as directed by the referee
- Shake hands with the other team and referee at the end of the game
- Listen and respond to what my coach/ team manager tells me
- Talk to someone I trust or the club welfare officer if I'm unhappy about anything at my club.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA:
I may:

- Be required to apologise to my team-mates, the other team, referee or team manager
- Receive a formal warning from the coach or the club committee
- Be dropped or substituted
- Be suspended from training
- Be required to leave the club.

In addition:

- My club, County FA or The FA may make my parent or carer aware of any infringements of the Code of Conduct
- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and suspension against my club.

Role of the Match Delegate

Both clubs home and away, must nominate a responsible adult/member of their club to act as Match Delegate on the day of the game. This should NOT be the team manager or coach, but another adult who is at the match.

The responsibility of the Match Delegate will be to:

- Upon arrival at the venue, the Match Delegate from the home team will ask their opponents, who their Match Delegate is and make introductions to each other.
- The Match Delegate must wear the league-supplied hi-viz vest for the duration of the match. Failure to do so will result in a fine being issued.
- Together, they will then report to the match referee at least 15 minutes before the start of the game and introduce themselves to him or her.
- The primary responsibility of the home team Match Delegate to look after the referee before, during and after the game until he or she leaves the ground. It would be appropriate if the home and away team delegates did the job together.
- This would include, showing the referee where the changing rooms and toilets are, directing them to the correct pitch, possibly offering a drink at half time and after the game and ensuring that their fees are paid.
- During the game, each delegate will be responsible for the behaviour of all club members and spectators. If the referee needs to he/she will, during a stoppage in play, approach the match delegate to assist him/her in dealing with any problems that may occur. The Match Delegate is not exempt from being reported for misconduct.
- It would be good practice for the Match Delegate to ensure that the referee is able to leave the ground safely.
- The FA Respect Programme must be considered by the delegate at all times.

Schedule A

Fees Tariff

FEES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4 (A)	CLUB ENTRY FEE	N/a
4 (B)	CLUB/TEAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	7v7 £80 9v9 £90 11v11 £100 U8 £70 U9 £70 U10 £80 U11 £80
4 (C)	DEPOSIT	£50.00
7 (C), 7(E)	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£10.00
18 (D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE	N/a
18 (H)	TRANSFER FEE	£10.00
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES	U8, U9 £15 U10, U11 £20 U12, U13 £22 U14, U15, U16 £25 U18 £30
23 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	As agreed with Sanctioning Authority

Fines Tariff

FINES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	FINE
2 (G)	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	Max £100
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES / RESPECT CAMPAIN	£10 per failure
2 (K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	Max £100
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	Max £30.00
4(A)	A TEAM WITHDRAWS AFTER THE DATE OF THE AGM AND BEFORE THE START OF THE SCHEDULED SEASON	50% entry fee
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	Max £100.00
4(E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM	£20.00
5 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	Max £25.00
6 (H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE. FAILURE TO ATTEND TO THE BUSINESS AND/OR CORRESPONDENCE OF THE COMPETITION	£20.00
6 (I)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME (i.e. 14 DAYS)	Any club failing to do so will be fined a maximum of £50. Future failure to pay the fine including the additional sum within 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding payments are settled.
8 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£20.00
9	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£20.00
10	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	Max £25.00
11 (A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	Max £100.00
11 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	Max £100.00
13 (A)	FAILURE TO A TROPHY IN GOOD CONDITION, ENGRAVED WITH THE SEASON AND TEAM NAME BY 31 ST MARCH EACH YEAR	£50
16(A)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	Max £100.00
16(B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	Max £100.00
18 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	Max 40.00

18 (B)(iii)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE PLAYING SEASON COMMENCING	Max £25.00
18(D)	REPLACEMENT REGISTRATION CARD FEE	£10 per card. Max £50
18 (F)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	Max £25.00
18 (G)(ii)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	Max £100.00
18(M)	FIELDING MORE THAN THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS MATCHES	Max £100
18 (N)(i)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£35 (Max). Shall have points deducted and maybe fined and/or dealt with at the discretion of the management committee
18 (N)(iv)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER IN LEAGUE CUP/SHIELD MATCHES	£35(Max). Shall be removed from the competition and the tie will be awarded to the opposition. The team maybe fine and/or dealt with at the discretion of the management committee
18 (O)(i)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£25.00 (Max)
18(P)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE PLAYER REGISTRATION CARDS AT THE START OF GAME	£50.00
19	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	Max £10.00 (per shirt, up to an aggregate maximum of £30)
19	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£5
20(A)	KICK OFF DELAYED BY MORE THAN 10 MINUTES	£5
20 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	Max £100.00
20 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£10
20 (D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£2 per missing player
20 (E) (i) & (iii)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	Points/tie awarded to opposition. 5v5 £25 7v7 £30 9v9 / 11v11 £35 For double headers the fine will be x1.5
20E(ii)	FAILURE TO FOLLOW CORRECT PROCEDURE FOR POSTPONED MATCH	£10
20 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	Max £10.00
21 (A) & 21 (C)	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£10.00
21 (B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£10.00

21 (A) & 21 (C)	INCOMPLETE OR INCORRECTLY COMPLETED RESULT CARD	£10.00
21(D)	PUBLISHING RESULTS/GRADING TABLES FOR FIXTURES INVOLVING U7s, U8s, U9s, U10s OR U11s	£5.00
23 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£10.00
23 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	Max £25.00
23 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	Max £25.00
23 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£10.00
NOTES	FAILURE TO NOTIFY FIXTURES SECRETARY OF COUNTY COMPETITION FIXTURE	£10

Schedule B

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