



(Formed 1996)

Handbook 2018 / 19

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Tribute

Mrs Brenda Ince MBE was one of the founding members of The Cambridgeshire Mini Soccer League in 1996.

Her untimely death on the 8th August 2013 is a huge loss to youth football in this county and the surrounding area.

Her abiding passion was for all children from ages 7-17 to be able to participate in local football in a positive and encouraging environment.

This committee, and those of the future, will endeavour to continue in the same spirit in her memory, and owe her a lasting debt of gratitude.

The Brenda Ince Foundation

In memory of Brenda Ince a fund has been set up to contribute to the education of referees and coaches. The Cambridgeshire Mini Soccer League will subsidise to a maximum of £50 per course (referee or level one coaching) up to two individuals per club/season.

Applications should be made in writing to the treasurer treasurer@cambridgeminisoccerleague.com and should be accompanied by a copy of the invoice from the County FA and the certificate awarded at the successful completion of the course.

We have set up a further account within the foundation to be used for any child who is unable to afford the kit, boots or subscriptions to join a club, or anyone who has fallen on hard times but still wishes to play football. Again, applications should be forwarded in confidence to the Treasurer, these should include full details of the circumstances behind the claim and the age group the child will be claiming for. For claims relating to registration fees clubs should detail what the charges are and what the clubs will be doing to assist the child in addition to the contribution from the league.

Let Children Play

*They stand on the field with their heart beating
fast*

*The whistle has blown, the die has been cast
Mum and Dad cannot help, they stand all alone
A goal at this moment would send the team
home*

*The ball near their feet, they kick and it misses
There's a moan from the crowd, some boos and
some hisses*

*A thoughtless voice cries 'Take off the bum'
Tears fill their eyes, it's no longer fun
If you're ever tempted to shout or to groan
Remember it's a child who stands all alone
So open your heart, give them a break*

It's moments like this a player you make

Keep this in mind, please do not forget

They're only children, not adults yet!

League Committee

Chairman: Mr Roger Sizer

chairman@cambridgeminisoccerleague.com

Vice Chairman: Mr Karl Peacock

vicechairman@cambridgeminisoccerleague.com

Honorary Treasurer: Mrs Tracey Durham

treasurer@cambridgeminisoccerleague.com

Honorary Competitions Secretary: under 9, 10 & 11: Mr Tony Williamson

fixtures91011@cambridgeminisoccerleague.com

Honorary Competitions Secretary- under 7 & 8: Mrs Sue Lander

fixtures78@cambridgeminisoccerleague.com

Registrations Secretary: Mr John Miller

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Honorary General Secretary: Mrs Heather Smart

secretary@cambridgeminisoccerleague.com

Administrations Secretary: Vicky Sizer

admin-secretary@cambridgeminisoccerleague.com

Minutes Secretary: Mrs Anina Ormerod

minutes-secretary@cambridgeminisoccerleague.com

Committee member: Mr Chris Abbott

Chris.Abbott@cambridgeshirefa.com

The Cambridgeshire Mini Soccer League

1. Nomenclature and constitution:

This competition shall be designated the Cambridgeshire Mini Soccer League and shall consist of Clubs who shall be member clubs.

All such member clubs must be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association, and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the form 'd' to the Cambridgeshire County Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be a twenty-five-mile radius from the centre of Cambridge (taken as being Great St Mary's Church, CB2 3PQ).

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Cambridgeshire Football Association and the constituent teams of member clubs may be grouped in divisions of under 7/8/9/10 and 11 years of age. Member clubs shall not enter any of their teams playing in the Competition in any other competitions except with the written consent of the Management Committee of the Competition. The league reserves the right to refuse entry to any club whose application is received after the handbook has gone to print.

Inclusivity and non- discrimination:

- (i) This Competition and each member club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination.
 - (ii) This Competition and each member club does not and must not by its rules or regulations, or in any manner whatsoever unlawfully discriminate against any person within the meaning and scope of the Equality Act 2010 or any law, enactment, order or regulation relating to discrimination (whether by age, gender, colour, sexuality, ability or disability, religion or belief)
 - (iii) 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, sexual orientation, race, nationality, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability.
 - (iv) any alleged breach of the Equality act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate sanctioning association for investigation.
-
- (d): As an FA Charter Standard League this Competition requires all affiliated clubs to have achieved FA Charter Standard status by June 30th 2018. The League Management Committee may expel any club that has failed to achieve Charter Standard status by this date. New member clubs have one year to achieve the Charter Standard Club award. The League has the right to refuse membership to a club if it fails to demonstrate commitment to achieving the award.
 - (e): This Competition and its clubs shall support the FA's Respect Programme. As such it recognises that everyone in football has a collective responsibility to create a fair, safe and enjoyable environment in which the game can take place. A Respect League values the contribution of match officials, players and spectators and ensures that they are treated

with fairness by opposing players, club, officials and spectators. The League and its clubs will seek to play fixtures in a fair, competitive but not antagonistic environment.

2. Entry fee, subscription, deposit:

- (a) Applications by clubs for admission to this competition must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an entry fee of £15.00 at under 7&8 and £25.00 at under 9&10&11 which shall be returned in the event of non- election. Applications from new clubs should be received on or before the 7th June each year.
- (b) Entry fees for continuing clubs should be paid on or before the 30th June each year. A club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee has been paid.
- (c) A Knock-Out Cup Competition shall be arranged annually for the under 9, under 10 and under 11 age groups only. A League Plate Competition will be arranged annually for the under 9,10,11 age groups only for those teams failing to progress beyond the first round of the Knock-Out Cup competition.
- (d) A club must advise annually to the Secretary, in writing by the 31st of July, its County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming season, failing which it shall be fined £10.00. 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.
- (e) The league handbook will be available to download from the Full Time home page of the Cambridgeshire Mini Soccer League
- (f) Teams wishing to register an additional under 7 team for inclusion after the Christmas break should apply to the league by the end of November. Player registrations for these teams should be entered onto the Whole Game system by 20th December. Clubs are reminded to add these teams to their insurance policy and county FA affiliation.

3. Officers:

The officers of the Competition shall be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Competition Secretary, Registration Secretary and representatives to be elected annually at the annual general meeting.

4. Management, Nomination, Election:

- (a) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the rules and regulations of The Football Association by a Management Committee comprising the officers and representatives who shall be elected at the annual general meeting.
- (b) Retiring officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election as officers or representatives of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two-member clubs, not later than the 30th April in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the annual general meeting, in the event of there being no nominations in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the annual general meeting.
- (c) The Management Committee shall meet as often as is necessary to deal with business as it arises.

On receiving a requisition signed by two thirds of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the 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 nominated officers.

5. Powers of management:

- (a) The Management Committee may appoint such other sub- committees as they may consider necessary and may delegate such of their power as they deem necessary to such committees.
- (b) Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management committee meetings, and have one vote there at, but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such member or to the club so represented (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.
- (c) 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, including any not provided for in the rules -except where these rules provide for the imposition of a fixed penalty (fine). Any club or Official or player alleged to be in breach of a Competition rule must be formally charged, in writing, and given the opportunity to present their case before the Management Committee. All breaches of the Laws Of The Game, rules and regulations of The Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with F.A. rules.
- (d) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding, subject to the right of appeal to the board of appeal in accordance with rule 15.

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within seven days.

- (e) Five members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee, and three members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business by any sub-committee of the Competition.
- (f) 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.
- (g) A club having failed to comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee or failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or correspondence of the competition, shall be liable to be fined or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the management committee.
- (h) All fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting of the written notification and must be made by club cheque, postal order or bank transfer (quoting the club name/reference). Clubs, officials or individuals committing a breach of this rule will incur such penalties as the Management Committee may impose. In the event that the management committee have to issue more than two reminders for any unpaid fines or charges a £10.00 administration fee will be levied in each instance.

- (i) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or match may have any expenses incurred refunded by the competition.
- (j) The management committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the competition between the annual general meeting or special general meeting called to decide the con-situation and the commencement of the competition season.
- (k) No participant under the age of 18 can be fined. Fines imposed by county football associations, on individual youth players, must be paid by the club.

6. Annual General Meeting:

- (a) The annual general meeting shall be held no later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least two-thirds of the member clubs are present and entitled to vote:
 - (i) to receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding annual general meeting
 - (ii) to consider any business arising therefrom.
 - (iii) to receive and adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts.
 - (iv) election of clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the management committee)
 - (v) constitution of the competition for the ensuing season.
 - (vi) election of officers and management committee.
 - (vii) alteration of rules, if any (of which notice has been given)
 - (viii) fix the date for the commencement and conclusion of the player season.
 - (ix) other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an annual general meeting.
- (b) A copy of the duly audited balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each club at least fourteen days prior to the meeting.
- (c) The Secretary shall keep a minute book and copies of each annual general meeting.
- (d) Each member club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an annual general meeting. Each club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than fourteen days' notice shall be given of any meetings.
- (e) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the competition during the 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.
- (f) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by the Management Committee.
- (g) Apologies for non-attendance will not be accepted. Any continuing member club failing to be represented at the annual general meeting shall be subject to a fine not exceeding £50.00.
- (h) A general meeting of all member clubs will be held once during the season.
- (i) Club representatives who do not attend general meetings shall be fined £10.00. Management Committee members who are absent from three consecutive meetings shall be deemed to have resigned unless a satisfactory explanation is received.
- (j) Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an annual general meeting.

7. Agreements to be signed:

- (a) The chairman and secretary of 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, of(chairman) and B,..... of(secretary) of football club have been provided with a copy of the rules and regulations of the Cambridgeshire mini soccer 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 15.

Any alteration of the chairman and/or secretary on the above agreement must be notified to the appropriate County Football Association to which the club is affiliated and to the Secretary of the Competition.

- (b) The Football Association child protection and disclosure barring service:
The following is the policy in regard to child protection and disclosure and barring service (DBS) checks for all Cambridgeshire Mini Soccer League clubs.
All clubs will have appointed a designated person who has attended The Football Association child protection course and had their DBS check approved by The Football Association DBS unit before their league affiliation is accepted for the 2018/19 season. This person will then be responsible during the season (2018/19) for ensuring that all youth teams (under 18) within the club have:

- Their managers
- Assistant managers
- Coaches
- Any other person who may come into direct contact with young players to have completed before 31st May 2018 the football association DBS unit.

Any club or team who has not completed these requirements will not be accepted into the Cambridgeshire Mini Soccer League for the 2018/19 season and thereafter.

All member clubs will provide on their Cambridgeshire Mini Soccer League affiliation form the details of the club designated person and when required by the General Secretary full details of all managers, assistant managers, coaches and any other person who may come into direct contact with young players proof that they are approved by the football association DBS unit.

8. Qualification and registration of players:

- (a) A registered playing member of a club is one who, being in all other aspects eligible, has:
- (i) signed a fully and correctly completed club registration form in ink, countersigned by an officer of the club. Forms should be retained by the club and may be called on for inspection at any time.
- Before the registration form is completed it shall be the duty of the club to satisfy itself that the player is not registered with another club playing in the

Cambridgeshire Mini Soccer League. All registrations must be entered via the Whole Game system no later than 6.00pm on the Friday prior to the Saturday.

(ii) the minimum number of players registered for each age group shall be team size, the maximum number of players registered at under 7 & under 8 shall be double the team size plus two (maximum of 10 players in any game) the maximum number of players registered at under 9,10 and 11 shall be double the team size.

(iii) **Knock- Out Cup and League Plate Competitions:** Each player shall have been a registered member of his/ her team for at least seven days before taking part in these competitions. In the semi- final and final ties, all players must have been registered for at least 21 days before the matches and have played two matches in the current season for the team they represent. **Once a player has played in the knock-out cup competition, for a team at any age level, that player will then be deemed as 'cup tied' at all age levels for that competition.** A player who has played in the Knock-Out Cup competition, but has not played in the League Plate competition, may participate in the League Plate competition after being transferred subject to the registration requirements as above. Clubs infringing this rule shall be subject to a fine and expelled from the competition.

(iv) the Registration Secretary shall have the right to call for a birth certificate or any other form of documentary evidence. No player shall be registered or de-registered after the last day of March in the current season.

(v) no player shall be de-registered unless the club has given acceptable reasons, in writing, to the registrations secretary from the parent/ guardian and received a written reply. **A player who has been de-registered may not register for another team in Cambs mini soccer league during the current playing season - the de-registration process is not intended to be a means of circumventing the transfer process.**

- (b) The Management Committee shall decide all registrations disputes. 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 Registration Secretary shall notify the club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.
- (c) It shall be deemed misconduct for a player:
 - (i) to play for more than one club/team in the competition in the same season without first being transferred. In the event a club has more than one team in an age group players will be registered for one team only. In the event a club has more than one team in an age group they no longer may be known as 'A', 'B', 'C' etc. Teams must be known by an alternative name, i.e. Blue, white etc.
 - (ii) having signed for one club in the competition, to sign for another club in the competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer;
 - (iii) to submit a signed registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.
- (d) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or, at their discretion, may fine the club proved guilty of registration

irregularities (subject to rule 16). The Management Committee shall have power to refuse or cancel the registration of any player found guilty of undesirable conduct and to disqualify the player in question from participating in all games in the competition (subject to rule 15).

(e) **Transfers:**

Any player may claim his/her transfer by giving seven days' notice to his/her club secretary, in writing. Provided that the player's liabilities are settled with his/her club and he/she is not indebted to them in any way, his/her transfer cannot be withheld by the club holding his/her registration. The transfer shall be either processed through Whole Game or drawn up on a printed form available from the Registration Secretary, and shall be filled in and signed as required, and returned to the Registration Secretary before a player can play for his/her new club.

No player shall be transferred after the last day of March in the current season. A player is not deemed to be transferred or registered until the necessary forms are received by the Registration Secretary. Any player wishing to transfer to another age group within his/her club may do so on one occasion during the playing season.

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

The approaching member club shall not give notice to approach more than one player of the same age group, of another member club at the same time, and shall not give notice of intention to approach another player of the same age group within 28 days of a prior notice.

- (f) 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.
- (g) A register containing the names of all players registered with each club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Registration Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of any duly appointed member club representatives at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged.
- (h) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players in a league game shall be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee. Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players in a cup game shall be fined and forfeit the tie and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the management committee.
- (i) The following clause applies to all competitions involving players in full-time secondary education:
 - 1. priority must be given at all times to school organisation activities.
 - 2. the availability of children must be cleared with the head teachers (except for Sunday league)
 - 3. children under 14 shall not play in a team involving players who are more than two years older.
- (j) A child who has not attained the age of six 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 31st August of the relevant playing season. i.e. children who are aged 6 as at midnight on 31st August in a playing season together with those who attain the age of 6 during the playing season will be classed at under 7 players for that playing season. Children who are aged 7 as at midnight on 31st 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 31st 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 st August of the relevant season	Eligible age groups	Maximum permitted format
6	Under 7 Under 8	5v5
7	Under 8 Under 9	5v5 7v7
8	Under 9 Under 10	7v7
9	Under 10 Under 11	7v7 9v9
10	Under 11 Under 12	9v9

To summarise this and address the common queries we have received, please see the following below:

A child can play up one age group. The previous issue of a change of playing format is no longer a barrier to playing up this year.

Once a child turns 6 years old they are now permitted to begin playing matches as part of an under 7's team.

Those players that turn 6 after the 31st August and become under 7 players during the season cannot play up into under 8's and must remain in the under 7's format until the following season.

Maximum playing time:

The FA sets out maximum length of time a player can play in any one day as follows

Under 7-8: 40 minutes per day in all organised development fixtures

Under 9-10: 60 minutes per day in all organised development fixtures

Under 11: 80 minutes per day in all organised development fixtures

- (k) International clearance – FIFA regulations governing the status and transfer of players require national associations to issue an international transfer certificate for any player over the age of 10 who is moving from one national association to another, **including** UK borders. Please contact the General Secretary for further information and the necessary forms to make an application.

9. Club colours, club name:

- (a) Every club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the secretary by the 30th June, who shall decide as to their suitability. Goal keepers must wear clothes which distinguish them from the other players and referees. 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 the colours in which it will play to its opponents at least five days before the match.
If, in the opinion of the referee, two clubs have the same or similar colours, the away team shall make the change. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off by not having a change of colours shall be fined £5.00.
The secretary of the competition may request shirts to be submitted if complaints are received as to lack of distinguishing colours, and the Management Committee may refuse to permit any shirts or shorts as they see fit.
- (b) Any club wishing to change its name and/or colours must seek permission from its affiliated county association and from the management committee.

10: Playing season, conditions of play, times of kick-off, postponements.

- (a) The playing season will commence on the first Saturday In September after the Cambridgeshire schools have returned from the summer break and conclude on the third Saturday in May. The Competitions Secretary may give permission for matches to be played on the fourth Saturday in May in exceptional circumstances. No club shall be compelled to play after the concluding date.
- (b) All matches shall be played in accordance with the laws of the game as determined by The Football Association.
Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their grounds in a playable condition. All 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/facilities are suitable for matches in the competition and to order the club concerned to play its fixtures on another ground. A club failing to commence at the appointed time may be fined a sum not exceeding £10.00 or be otherwise dealt with as the management committee may determine. Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the competition.
The home team must provide at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Goal nets must be provided and goals must be securely fixed to the ground.
- (c) Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to request that the date of a league fixture be moved forward to a date on which neither club has a pre-existing fixture, or that the league fixture be reversed (home away) and **must** submit such a request at least seven clear days of the fixture being played. The request must be submitted by the secretary/fixtures secretary of the fixture's home club,

with evidence that the away club is in agreement. The Competitions Secretary may approve or reject such a request.

(i) the secretary/fixtures secretary of the home club must give notice of full particulars of the location of and access to the ground and time off kick-off to the secretary of the opposing club at least four clear days prior to the playing of the match. The away club shall seek/acknowledge receipt of such particulars. Any club failing to comply with this rule shall be liable to a fine of £10.00.

(ii) with the consent of both managers and the Fixtures Secretary, and subject to a period of seven days' notice having been given, clubs may agree to play on a Sunday. This is with the proviso that a safe environment is provided with due diligence to older teams playing at the same location.

- (e) Each team shall play home and/or away fixtures in its own division. To comply with The Football Association's development directive the league will review the divisions during the season and reserves the right to re-position any team to any division. Fixtures shall be arranged by the Competitions Secretary. The maximum playing time in any one day for under 7 and under 8 age groups is 40 minutes, for under 9 and under 10 age groups is 60 minutes and for under 11 age groups is 80 minutes. Duration of matches shall be as follows:

Under 7 – 4x10 minutes- 3x5 minutes intervals

Under 8 – 4x10 minutes- 3x5 minutes intervals

Under 9 – 2x15 minutes & 2x10 minutes- 3x5 minutes intervals

Under 10- 2x25 minutes max, 10 minutes half time

Under 11- 2x30 minutes max, 10 minutes half time

It shall be the responsibility of the home club to ensure that mini soccer goals are provided:

Under 7/8/9/10 - 12'x6'

Under 11 – 16'x7'

Pitches must be marked out in the correct manner with a defined viewing area 2 metres from the pitch. In the event of a club failing to keep its engagement, the management committee shall have a power to inflict a fine on the defaulting club, order the defaulting club to pay expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise, except the award of goals. In the event of a Cup match the Management Committee shall have power to inflict a fine on the defaulting club and award the tie to the opposition. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the management committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted in the circumstances.

If any club fails to fulfil a fixture, then each club involved in the fixture shall inform the competitions secretary, in writing or via email (not through a note on the full time system) , the reasons why the match did not take place within four days of the planned date. (E.G. no later than Tuesday, following a Saturday fixture). Where this relates to a pitch being unplayable this can be reported by the HOME team only. If the reasons for cancellation concern injury or sickness, the affected club will list the players involved. Failure to inform the Competitions Secretary as required will result in fine of £10. Breaking a fixture for any reason may incur a fine of up to £50, and payment of opposition match or travel costs, ground to ground, at the discretion of the management committee.

The minimum number of players required to commence or play a game shall be team size minus one.

The Competitions Secretary may request on a Monday evening for a team to accept a re-arranged fixture for the following Saturday.

In the event of a 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 set by the Honorary Competitions Secretary.

The Management Committee shall review all abandoned matches and, in a case, where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either club, shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee is satisfied that a match in the League Cup or League Plate competitions was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the match to the opponents and/or take what other action they may deem necessary. In cases where a match is abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their club members, the Management Committee shall take such action they consider appropriate. Such actions are subject to any disciplinary action taken by the appropriate County Association. The Management Committee shall review any match that has taken place where either or both teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by the association or affiliated association. In each case the team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with rule 8. Where both teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void.

(f) Cup competitions:

Any different rules applying to cup competitions shall be circulated upon organisation of the said competition.

In all rounds, up to and including the semi-final, the first team drawn shall be deemed as the home team and the game will take place at their ground.

In all rounds of cup competitions, if the result is a draw, extra time of five minutes each way will be played. In the event of a draw after extra time, the match will be decided by the taking of penalty kicks.

(g) Any club may at its discretion and in accordance with the laws of the game use substitute players in a match in this competition as follows:

Under 7- now playing 5v5,5 substitutes allowed, all substitutes must play a minimum of 15 minutes.

Under 8- now playing 5v5,5 substitutes allowed, all substitutes must play a minimum of 15 minutes.

Under 9-now playing 7v7,7 substitutes allowed, all substitutes must play a minimum of 15 minutes.

Under 10- 7v7, all substitutes must play a minimum of 15 minutes

Under 11- 9v9, all substitutes must play a minimum of 15 minutes

Substitutes may be used at any time with the permission of the referee or game leader.

Entry into the field of play will only be allowed during a stoppage in play. A player who has been replaced may return to the playing area as a substitute for another player.

All registered players available must be taken to all matches and play a minimum of 15 minutes. This relates to ALL age groups.

From the beginning of the 2014/15 season the format below will be adopted.

Under 7- 5v5

Under 8- 5v5

Under 9- 7v7

Under 10- 7v7

Under 11- 9v9

Under 12- 9v9

Under 13- under 18 – up to 11v11

11: Reporting results:

- (a) Both clubs shall by text submission (SMS) send the result by 7:30pm on the day of the match. This must be sent to the number received by text submission on the day of the game. Failure to comply will result in a fine of £10.00.
- (b) The home and away club must within 3 days enter the match details on the league website (Full Time). This must include the forename and surname of the team players and also referee markings, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £10.00 and/or the club being dealt with by the Management Committee.
- (c) The Management Committee shall have power to take such action as they deem suitable against a club which submits an incomplete form or incorrect information onto the League website.
- (d) Leagues are permitted to collect but not publish results for fixtures they organise for under 7/8/9/10 and 11 mini soccer. They will require a club to confirm that a set fixture has been played. A maximum fine of £10.00 may be imposed for breach of this rule or falsifying any match statistics.

12: Referees:

The home team shall be responsible for the appointment of a competent referee, who must be over fourteen years of age, otherwise by the agreement of both teams. A referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full power, status and authority of a registered referee.

All age groups (except u7 & u8) must provide a competent linesman who must be over 14 years of age. Failure to comply will result in a fine not exceeding £10.00

In Cup Competitions the league shall appoint qualified referees to a semi-final and qualified referees and assistant referees to a final.

Referees appointed to a cup semi-final shall be entitled to a fee of £10.00 plus 35 pence per mile travelling expenses, the cost of which shall be borne by the league. The home club will be responsible for paying the referee on the day and will then be reimbursed by the league (receipts should be forwarded to the Honorary Treasurer – email treasurer@cambridgeminisoccerleague.com).

Referees and assistant referees appointed to a final shall be presented with a trophy in lieu of a fee and entitled to 35 pence per mile travelling expenses.

Where a member club wishes to submit an adverse report about an appointed referee it should be signed by the club chairman and secretary and submitted to the Honorary General Secretary within seven days of the match. If a mark of 60 or less is marked on a result card a fuller statement of explanation must be sent within seven days. Failure to comply will result in a fine of £10.00.

The league recommend that every team should have, as a minimum requirement, at least one person who has attended a mini soccer referee's course. Bursaries are available from the Cambs Mini Soccer League, two per club per season up to a maximum of £50.00.

Guide to marking:

The mark awarded by a club must be based on the referee's overall performance. It is most important that the mark is awarded fairly and not based upon isolated incidents or previous games. The referee's performance should be determined by the table below which should act as a guide for the overall mark which should fall within the mark range for each standard of performance.

<u>Mark range</u>	<u>Comment</u>
100-86	The referee demonstrated very accurate decision-making and controlled the game very well using management and communication skills effectively to add value to the game.
85-76	The referee demonstrated accurate decision-making and controlled the game well using management and communication skills to contribute positively to the game.
75-61	The referee demonstrated reasonably accurate decision-making and despite some shortcoming generally controlled the game well.
60 and below	The referee demonstrated shortcomings in the accuracy of decision-making and control which affected the game.

Notes:

- Club officials should use the full range of marks within each category to help distinguish between different performance levels, e.g. within the 85-76 category a mark of 84 indicates a better performance than a mark of 77.
- While some referees may have below average performances, there will usually have been some positive aspects of their performance, so extremely low marks should be very rare.
- When club officials are marking a referee, they should always look at a game as a whole and not at isolated decisions. The result of the match should not influence the mark and disciplinary action should be judged objectively.
- When a mark of 60 or lower is awarded, an explanation must be provided to the competition using the box provided on the marking form (club report on match referee form can be downloaded from Cambridgeshire football association website www.cambridgeshirefa.com) . The purpose of this is to assist referees to improve their performance levels, so the comments should be as helpful as possible. On receipt the competition should, within seven days, send a copy, with match details including the score and referees mark awarded by each team, to the parent county to which the referee is affiliated.

How to decide on the referee's mark:

The following questions focus on key areas of a referee's performance. They are intended as an 'aide memoire', are not necessarily comprehensive and need not to be answered individually. It is, however, worth considering them before committing yourself to a mark for the referee.

Control and decision making:

- How well did the referee control the game?
- Were the players' actions recognized correctly?
- Were the laws applied correctly?
- Were all incidents dealt with efficiently/effectively?
- Were all the appropriate sanctions applied correctly?
- Was the referee always within reasonable distance of incidents?
- Was the referee well positioned to make critical decisions, especially in and around the penalty area?
- Did the referee understand the players' positional intentions and keep out of the way accordingly?
- Did the referee demonstrate alertness and concentration throughout the game?
- Did the referee apply the use of the advantage to suit the mood and temperature of the game?
- Was the referee aware of the players' attitude to advantage?
- Did the referee use the assistants effectively?
- Did the officials work as a team?

Communication and player management:

- How well did the referee communicate with the players during the game?
- Did the referee's level of involvement/profile suit this particular game?
- Did the referee understand the players' problems on the day- e.g. difficult ground/weather conditions?
- Did the referee respond to the changing pattern of play/mood of players?
- Did the referee demonstrate empathy for the game, allowing it to develop in accordance with the tempo of the game?
- Was the referee pro-active in controlling in the game?
- Was the referee's authority asserted firmly without being officious?
- Was the referee confident and quick thinking?
- Did the referee appear unflustered and unhurried when making critical decisions?
- Did the referee permit undue questioning of decisions?
- Did the referee deal effectively with players crowding after decisions/incidents?
- Was effective player management in evidence?
- Was the referee's body language confident and open at all times?
- Did the pace of the game, the crowd or player pressure affect the referee negatively?

Final thoughts:

- Always try to be objective when marking. You may not obtain the most objective view by marking immediately after the game.
- Judge the performance over the whole game. Don't be too influenced by one particular incident.

- Don't mark the referee down unfairly because your team was unlucky and lost the game or some disciplinary action was taken against your players.

13. Continuation of membership or withdrawal of a club:

- (a) All clubs wishing to remain in membership of the competition for the following season must confirm their intention to do so, in writing, to the Secretary by the 30th June each year. Subject to their financial obligations for the previous season being paid prior to their application.
- (b) A club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all its teams from the competition after the 15th August. Any club infringing this rule shall be liable to fine of £10.00 per team withdrawn.
- (c) In the event that any such obligation remains undischarged after the period of twenty-one days, then such obligation shall be met by the then current club members, excluding those under the statutory school leaving age. Until a member's pro rata obligation is discharged in full, the member shall not be allowed to participate in the Competition, which may apply to the club's parent county association for the suspension order.

14. Protests and complaints:

- (a)
 - (i) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the rule shall be referred to 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. Any club lodging such protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this rule and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.
- (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 in duplicate with the Secretary within seven days (excluding Sundays) of the match, or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his/her club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.
- (c) Any dispute occurring between clubs in the Competition shall be referred for determination by the Management Committee whose decision shall be binding upon all parties, subject to rule 15.
- (d) No protest of any kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum of £10.00. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting club, or club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint, to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.
- (e) All parties to a protest or complaint must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement when the protest or complaint is being heard and must have received seven days' notice of the hearing, together with a copy of the submission. When dealing with a protest or

complaint the Management Committee shall take into consideration the possession by the protesting or complaining club of any information which, if properly used, might have avoided the protestor complaint.

15. Board of appeal:

Within fourteen days of the posting of any written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or the Competition, a club, official or player against whom action is taken may appeal against such decision (with the exception of the imposition of a fixed penalty/fine) by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Secretary of the Cambridgeshire Football Association, including a fee of £25.00, for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. The ground of appeal shall be in accordance with F.A. rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

16. Exclusion of clubs or teams, misconduct of clubs, officials and players:

- (a) At the annual general meeting, or special general meeting called for the purpose, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any club or team from further membership upon a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot.
- (b) At the annual general meeting, or at a special general meeting, called for the purpose in accordance with the provision of rule 18, the accredited delegates present shall have power to exclude from further participation in the competition any club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable upon a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast. 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 official or member of a club proved guilty of either misconduct (other than field offences) or of inducing or attempting to induce a player or players of another club in the competition to join them, shall be liable to expulsion or such penalty as a general meeting or management committee may decide, and their club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of clauses (a) and (b) of this rule.
- (d) Any club or team failing to complete its fixtures in any season shall (unless the conditions are beyond their control, or the accredited delegates present at the annual general meeting or a special general meeting decide otherwise by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast) be debarred from membership the following season.

17. Trophy: legal owners, agreements to be signed, awards conditions of taking over.

- (a) A Competition cup or trophy shall be vested in the Association sanctioning the Competition as trustees. If a competition be discontinued for any cause, the cup or trophy shall be returned to the donor if conditions attached to it so provide, or otherwise dealt with as the Association may decide. At the close of the Competition awards may be made to the winners and runners up if the funds of the Competition permit.
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 Football club, members of and representing the club, having been declared winners of the 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 Secretary on or before the last day of March next. 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.

- (b) The name of the winners will be engraved annually on the trophy; the cost of such engraving will be borne by the winning club. Failure to return the trophy by the required date or failure to have the trophy engraved will result in a fine of £25.00.

18. Special general meetings:

Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the clubs in membership, the Secretary shall call a special general meeting.

The Management Committee may call a special general meeting at any time.

At least seven days' notice shall be given of either meeting under this rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting. Each member club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all special general meetings. Each club shall be entitled to one vote only.

Any continuing member club failing to be represented at a special general meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £10.00.

Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all special general meetings.

19. Alterations to rules:

Alterations shall be made to these rules only at the annual general meeting or at a special general meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with rule 18. Any alteration made during the playing season to the rule relating to the qualification of players shall not take effect until the following season.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the annual general meeting shall be submitted to the secretary by the 30th April in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee shall be circulated to the clubs with the notice of the annual general meeting. A proposal to change a rule shall be carried, if a majority of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to rules to be considered at the annual general meeting or special general meeting shall be submitted to the sanctioning Football Association fourteen days prior to the date of the meeting.

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

20. Rules binding on clubs:

Each member club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the foregoing rules and agreed to abide by the decisions of the management committee subject to rule 15. Each member club must abide by any issued football association code of conduct.

21. 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 £100.00 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 the 30th April each year.
- (d) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a competition shall be prepared and shall be audited annually by a qualified person.

22. Correspondence:

All communications to the league must be addressed to the Competitions Secretary, and registration matters to the Registration Secretaries.

23. Settlement of financial matters:

The settlement of all financial matters, including the payment of penalties, must in all cases (unless otherwise ordered) be made within fourteen days of receipt of notification.

24. Officers' expenses:

The Management Committee shall have the power to repay to each or any of its officers the expenses they incur in their work for the league.

25. Insurance:

All clubs must have public liability insurance cover of at least ten million pounds.

26:

Any item not covered in the Cambridgeshire Mini Soccer League rules shall be covered by the rules of the Cambridgeshire Football Association.

27. Dissolution:

- (a) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a special general meeting by a majority of three quarters of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant special general meeting.

- (b) In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.
- (c) The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:
 - (i) any surplus assets, save for a trophy or any other presentation remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition of affiliated Association or the Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the sanctioning Association.
 - (ii) if a Competition is discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as Sanctioning Association may decide.

Notes for Club Secretaries:

Secretaries are recommended to ascertain that all competitions in which their club competes are properly sanctioned, and they should make themselves acquainted with the rules.

Bring to the notice of your committee any conduct on the part of a member of your club which is likely to bring the game into disrepute. If persisted in, a club ought not allow any such offender to continue to belong to it, for not only may such conduct bring punishment on the members of your club, but it gives the club a bad name and may lead to more serious trouble.

If you find spectators on your ground beginning to annoy the referee, remember that you are responsible for his protection both during and after the match.

The Management Committee consider secretaries as the prime contact for any club and would ask, wherever practical, that correspondence and telephone calls from a club to League Officers are made by the secretary or at least with his/her knowledge.

Officers of the league are, like you, voluntary workers, and it is therefore unreasonable to call them after 9:30 pm.

The playing rules:

1. Pitch dimensions (see diagrams on following pages)

Under 7/8	40 yards x 30 yards
Under 9/10	60 yards x 40 yards
Under 11	80 yards x 50 yards

Football turf pitches (3G) are allowed in this competition providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on The FA's register of football turf pitches. The home club is also responsible for advising participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with rule 10(d). Pitches must be marked out in accordance with the competition playing rules and corner flags must be used.

2. Goalpost size

Under 7/8/9/10 – 6 feet x 12 feet
Under 11 – 7 feet x 16 feet

3. Ball size

Under 7/8/9 – size 3
Under 10/11 – size 4

4. Numbers on pitch

Under 7 – maximum of 5, five substitutes allowed, all substitutes must play a minimum of 15 minutes, roll on roll off.
Under 8 - maximum of 5, five substitutes allowed, all substitutes must play a minimum of 15 minutes, roll on roll off
Under 9 - maximum of 7, seven substitutes allowed, all substitutes must play a minimum of 15 minutes, roll on roll off
Under 10 - maximum of 7, seven substitutes allowed, all substitutes must play a minimum of 15 minutes, roll on roll off
Under 11 - maximum of 9, nine substitutes allowed, all substitutes must play a minimum of 15 minutes, roll on roll off

5. Offsides:

Offsides for under 11 only.

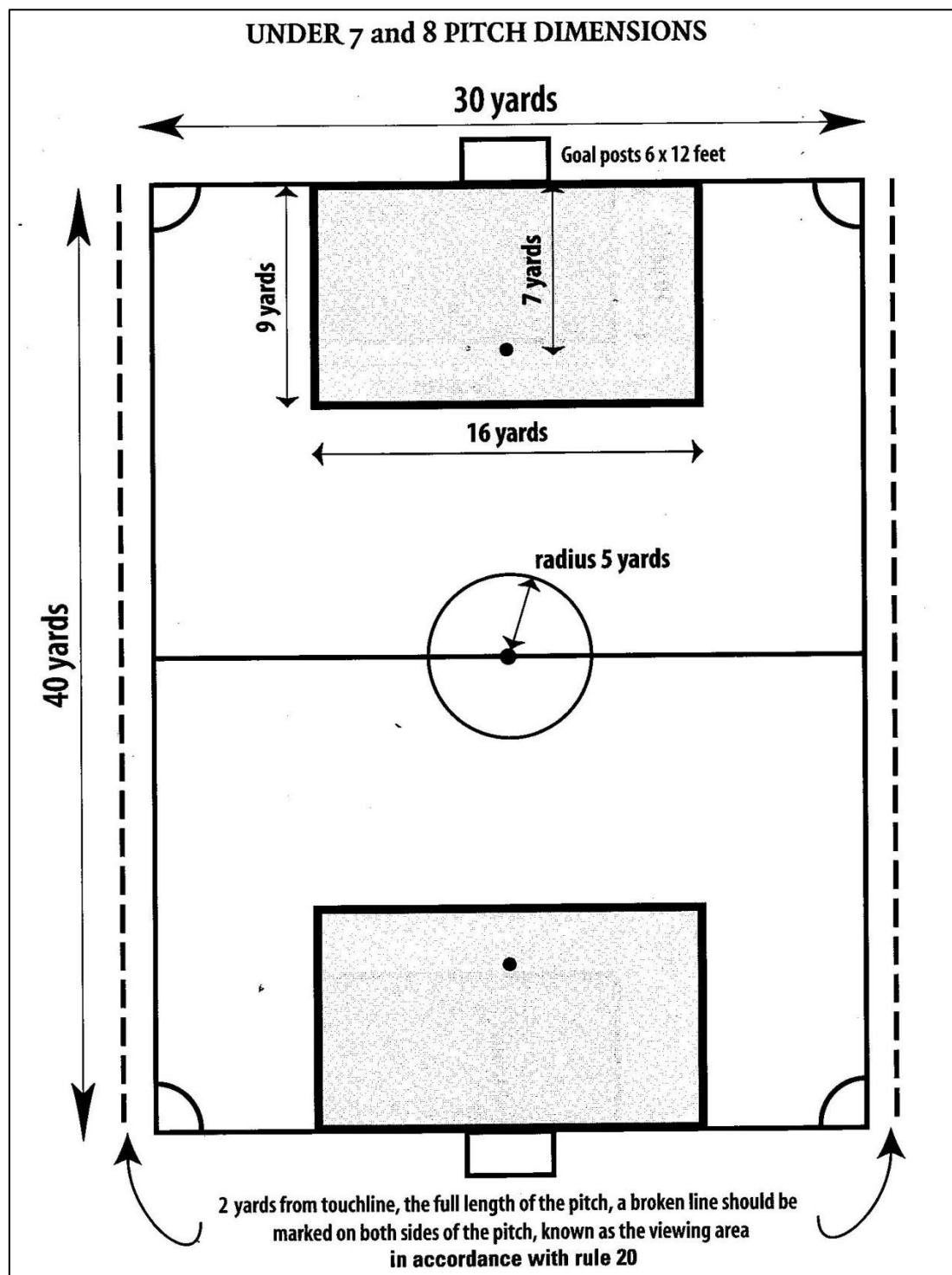
6. Penalty area:

As per diagram

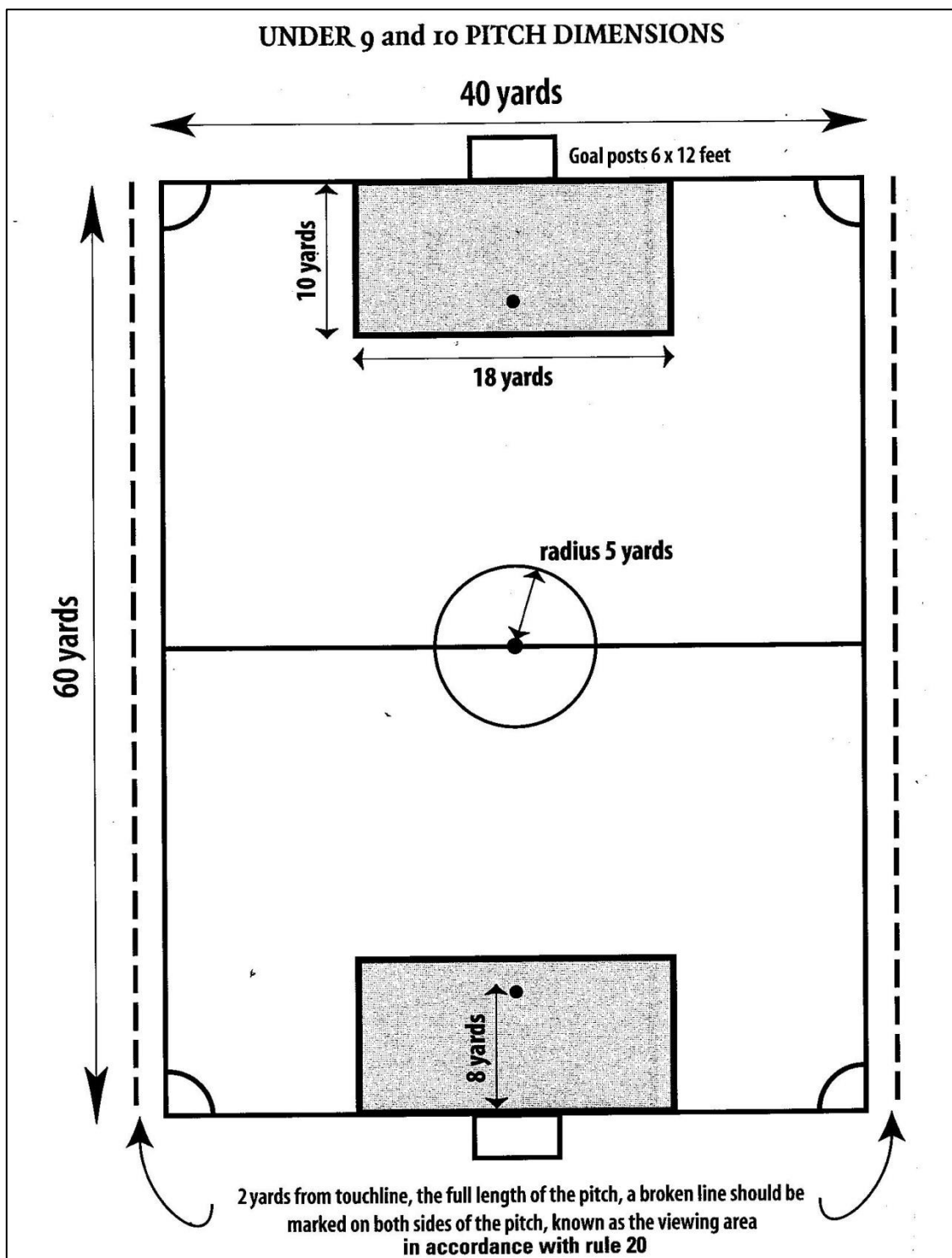
7. Kick-off:

At the centre of pitch to start the game and after each goal.

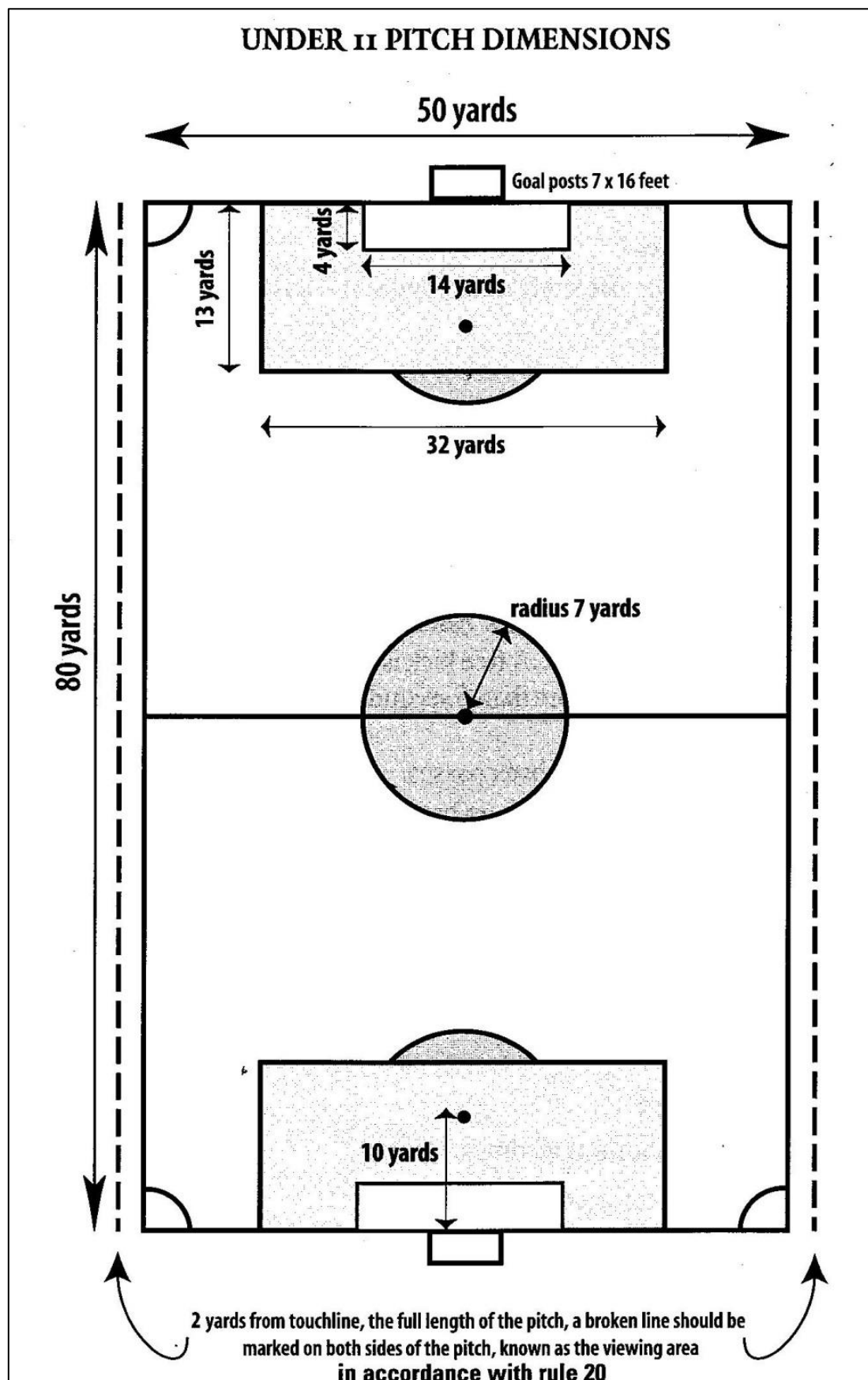
Under 7 and 8 Pitch Dimensions



Under 9 and 10 Pitch Dimensions



Under 11 Pitch Dimensions



8. Throw-ins:

Taken in the normal way. Team leader (referee) to coach when appropriate.

9. Corner kicks, goal kicks:

Are awarded in the normal way.

10. Free kicks:

Taken in the normal way.

Under 7/8/9/10 must be five yards away. Under 11 – 10 yards away.

11. Penalty kicks:

As per diagram

12. Goalkeepers

- Distinguishable by a different colour
- Can handle ball in a penalty area
- May not handle the ball outside the penalty area.
- Under 7/8/9/10/11 – no restriction on number of steps.
- Under 7/8 – must roll or throw ball out.
- Under 9/10/11 – drop kick. A free kick is awarded to the opposing team if the goalkeeper takes more than 6 seconds to release the ball from his/her hands.
- Under 7/8 – may pick up back passes.
- Under 9/10/11 – may not pick up back passes.

13. Retreat line (under 7,8,9,10)

The halfway line acts as a retreat line on goal kicks. The opponents must drop off to the halfway line to help the goalkeeper learn to play out from the back. The ball is in play as soon as it leaves the goal area. This law is mandatory.

14. Shin pads:

Compulsory.







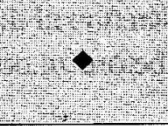

15. Cycling shorts:

Must match playing shorts at all times.

16. Footwear:

Training shoes or football boots.

FOOTWEAR GUIDANCE

Recommended Footwear for Synthetic Surfaces					
Footwear Types					
	Football Boot (screw-in stud)	Football Boot (moulded stud)	Trainer ('Astro' trainer)	Trainer (flat sole)	Football Boot (blade)
3G Football Turf / Long pile Carpet					
	✓ Recommended		♦ Not ideal	✗ Not permitted	

1. Blades: Use of footwear which has a bladed profile studded sole is prohibited.
2. Metal (screw-in) Studs on Synthetic Turf for Rugby: Metal Studs designed for Rugby are permitted provided they are Kite Marked and manufactured to BS 6366:2011. These types of studs are a mandatory requirement when playing rugby and are part of the IRB laws of the game. These types of studs are designed for player safety and the limit the potential damage to the playing surface.

It is important that the studs must be fitted correctly to the shoe sole and in a way that they cannot capture the turf fibers i.e. all studs are fully tightened and there is no gap between the studs and the sole of the boot. All studs must be free of sharp edges, have a smooth and undamaged surface and totally free of sharp burrs. The profile of the stud must be an even wear across the bottom of the stud.

Studs showing any of these defects are therefore PROHIBITED for use on the surface at any time whether in training or match situations. It is the responsibility of the facility owner and/or club to check and monitor all footwear used on the surface prior to any person entering or using the synthetic turf field to verify compliance with these conditions.

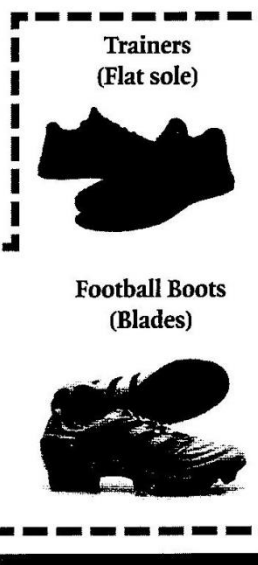
It is also advisable that the facility owner and/or club ensure that all footwear is clean and free from mud, soil and stones, prior to usage on pitch. Failure to monitor this aspect will affect the sports performance and drainage of the turf system, plus bring onto the pitch foreign debris which could lead to player injury.

The use of flat soled training shoes and 'Astro' trainers should be discouraged or ideally prohibited as they flatten the pile of the carpet and increase the rate of compaction of the infill.

If significant use of such footwear is envisaged the surface manufacturer should be advised before a surface is selected and appropriate provision for additional maintenance and a reduced service life made.

EXAMPLES (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)

Football Boots (Moulded Studs)	Trainers ('Astro' shoes)	Football Boots (Screw-in Studs)	Football Boots (Blades)
			



17. Referee:

Home team responsibilities for appointment of referee; otherwise by agreement of both teams.

18. Point system:

No points awarded, non-competitive.

19. Playing times:

Saturdays- AM/PM at the discretion of the home team.

No match shall commence before 10.00 am without the agreement of both teams.

See rule 10 (ii)

20. Designated spectator areas:

Each home club shall make arrangements for the provision of designated areas for spectators. This area can be marked by an additional painted line, the use of cones, a roped off area or use of a temporary spectator barrier. The area for spectators should start two yards from the touchline on one side of the pitch and the opposite side also two yards for managers and players. Each area should run the full length of the pitch. It is recognised, however, that the alignment of some public pitches does not allow for this arrangement in which case other appropriate arrangements should be made.

Expectations:

- *To be guided through their games with sympathy and encouragement from team leaders.*
- *Allowed to play without constant hindrance from the sidelines.*
- *To be supported and applauded for good play and behaviour.*
- *Not to be criticised for mistakes.*
- *To be set a good example by adults.*



CALLING ALL PARENTS

Children, as you know, develop differently and at different rates; they react differently to the same pressures. We are attempting to give all the young people who play soccer a good and worthwhile experience. The relationships with all adults at both matches and training must be positive, sporting and be part of the example adults should be setting for the young people.

YOU SHOULD ALL REMEMBER

- Young people are not playing to satisfy your ambition.
- Young people are involved for their enjoyment - not yours.
- You have a responsibility to encourage young people to play by the rules.
- Teamwork and effort are as important as winning. You should accept losing without undue disappointment.
- Do not allow your winning side to gloat over their victory.
- Never ridicule or shout at a young person for making a mistake or losing - praise them or keep quiet.
- Set an example - applaud good play by both teams.
- Never publicly question the Referee's decisions. Never doubt his or her honesty.
- Help to remove all verbal and physical abuse in soccer.
- Recognise the value and importance of the Coaches, who give up their time to help the young people.

If you cannot abide by this Code of Conduct, then we would ask you not to watch the football matches. So much good work can be undone by one unsavoury incident. Be responsible. Obey the code and allow everyone to enjoy the best game in the world.



CAMBRIDGESHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION LIMITED



NOTICE TO PARENTS / TEAM MANAGERS

SCOUTING BY PROFESSIONAL CLUBS

You should be aware that.....

- A competent scout **must** approach the team manager first and ask permission to approach the player's parents / guardians in which he or she is interested.
- A responsible scout **will not** ask for player contact details from a team manager if the players parents are not available.
- A bona- fide scout **will** produce formal identification with contact details upon it.
- If there is any **doubt**, the team manager should take details and check these with the Club the scout is representing before making any player introductions.
- The scout **will** be able to give full details of the player's development route he or she is offering to the player.
- Under **no circumstances** should a scout approach a player directly.

By being aware of these simple requirements that a responsible scout must follow it will enable players to play the game in a safe environment. It also allows parents and team managers to be reassured that any approaches made to them are by competent adults following a strict code of conduct involved in developing the players of the future.

Should you have any concerns please contact either the Football Development Officer at Cambridgeshire FA or a member of the League Committee.

The RESPECT Programme

- The RESPECT Programme**
1. Codes of Conduct: all Clubs to adopt the Codes of Conduct be they Charter Standard or not.
 2. Designated Spectator Area: mandatory for all age groups with either barriers or 2 metre line marked to full length of the pitch.
 3. Captain's Arm Band: all teams.



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION LIMITED**



The 'RESPECT' Programme

The RESPECT Programme reaches out to everyone in Football

The Programme aims to improve everyone's experience in Football

Cambridgeshire Football Association supports this Programme and encourages everyone to take an active part

All Competitions affiliated to Cambridgeshire Football Association; their member clubs and referees have signed up to initiatives within the Programme

These initiatives include:

- ❖ Signing up to CODES of CONDUCT:
Players
Managers and Coaches
Spectators
Referees
- ❖ Touchline Barriers
- ❖ Captains taking more responsibility
- ❖ Referees managing the game

More information is available on www.cambridgeshirefa.com



**Cambridgeshire F.A.
encourage all to take an active part
within this Programme
and promote**



Respect



Responsibility and respect in football:

Clubs are reminded that all participants in football have a responsibility to act in the act in the best interests of the game at all times.

Furthermore, under the respect programme, there is an individual and collective responsibility for all parties to create a fair, safe and enjoyable environment for participants in the game. Cambridgeshire FA is proud to say that all its affiliated leagues are fully committed to respect and each league has a respect league co-ordinator on its management committee.

Cambridgeshire FA will always look into reports of poor standards of behaviour in football. In order that facts may be established, it's complainant and their club officials where appropriate, and corroborated when required. On receipt of a complaint, the County disciplinary department will consider the seriousness of the case and refer for action as follows:

- (i) If further information is required, then this may be requested by telephone, or in writing or occasionally by convening a board of enquiry.
- (ii) If there is evidence of misconduct under rule E of the FA conduct regulations, then the disciplinary department will issue a charge via the club secretary. They will invite the person (s) concerned to in writing or by personal appearance at a hearing. In the event of a commission finding a misconduct charge proved, individuals and/or clubs can face substantial fines and suspensions. This process is rigorous, thorough, and evidence and procedures need to stand up to scrutiny because guilty parties have the right of appeal to the FA against decisions of the county FA which they consider to be unfair. The standard of proof required for a decision is on the balance of probabilities.
- (iii) If the evidence indicates poor practice, but not misconduct, then the matter will be referred to the respect league co-ordinator to contact the offending party's club, usually via the club secretary.

The co-ordinator has a number of actions available including:

- (a) Request that club members are formally reminded of the respect codes of conduct;
- (b) Request that the club committee issues a stronger warning to its member (s) through its own disciplinary procedures;
- (c) Call club members (e.g. chairman, manager) in to meet with League and/or County FA officials for explanation and action planning;
- (d) Require club members (s) to attend a suitable FA course, e.g. Safeguarding children or welfare workshop, or an online course such as equality & diversity, or the new respect workshop;
- (e) Referral to the county FA charter standard committee for a status review;
- (f) A league official or a county FA official to attend future matches of the club concerned to monitor behaviour.

It is worth remembering, however, that there are always (at least) two sides to every story and opinions of incidents may vary wildly between factions with vested interests in the

outcome of matches. This is why we will always seek the opinion of the referee or any other independent witnesses, where possible, and give substantial weight to their evidence.

Remember also that rules and regulations are there, not to catch out the unwary, but for everybody's protection against unfair things happening to them.

Under 9 Knock-Out Cup Winners:

2014-15 – Chesterton Eagles White
2015-16 – Whittlesford Warriors Red
2016-17 – Milton Colts Sky
2017-18 - Chesterton Eagles White

Under 9 League Plate Winners:

2014-15 – Cambourne FC
2015-16 – Chesterton Eagles White
2016-17 – Exning United
2017-18 – Isleham United Black

Under 10 Knock-Out Cup Winners:

1998-99 – Brampton Spartans
1999-00 – Paddock Flyers
2000-01 – Young Flyers B
2001-02 – Fulbourn Falcons
2002-03 – ETS Strikers A
2003-04 – Histon Hornets
2004-05 – Fulbourn Falcons Colts A
2005-06 – Histon Hornets A
2006-07 – Histon Hornets A
2007-08 – Cambridge Celts
2008-09 – Haddenham Rovers Colts
2009-10 – Cottenham United Colts
2010-11 – Cherry Hinton Lions
2011-12 - Newmarket Town Youth
2012-13 – Burwell Swallows
2013-14 – Willingham Wolves
2014-15 – Chesterton Eagles
2015-16 – Chesterton Eagles white
2016-17 – Elsenham Youth
2017-18 – Milton Colts Sky

Under 10 League Plate Winners:

2014-15 – Melbourne Dynamos
2015-16 – Saffron Walden Town
2016-17 – Bottisham
2017-18 – Waterbeach Colts

Under 11 Knock-Out Cup Winners:

2000-01 – Melbourne Youth
2001-02 – Soham Town Colts
2002-03 – Comberton Crusaders
2003-04 – Ellesmere Eagles A
2004-05 – Histon Hornets
2005-06 – Over Sports Colts
2006-07 – NST Strikers A
2007-08 – Soham Town Colts
2008-09 – Cambridge Celts
2009-10 – Ely Crusaders Colts
2010-11 – Thurlow Youth
2011-12 – Cherry Hinton Lions
2012-13 – Witchford Colts White
2013-14 – Over Sports Colts
2014-15 – Cambridge Celts Blue
2015-16 – Exning United White
2016-17 – Exning United White
2017-18 – St Ives White Sox

Under 11 League Plate Winners:

2014-15 – Longstanton Colts
2015-16 – Whittlesford Warriors
2016-17 – Milton Colts
2017-18 – Histon Hornets White