

Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League Committee Members

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HGFPL RULES 2021-2022

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.

“Player Registration System” means The FA system to register players as determined by tThe FA from time to time.

“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.

“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', 'HGFPL' 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 350 teams approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (C) 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

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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 Code of Conduct and produce these if requested by the management committee.

(N) 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/elbow touch and to offer handshakes/elbow touch at the end.
- Each home team 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.
- Cup and Shield matches will be played 5 minutes shorter in each half to allow for extra time if required. 5 minutes each way of extra -time and penalties are played to obtain a winner.

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

Please note: for the 2020-2021 season, Teams will only be charged Entry Fees if they are new to the League. All Teams playing as part of the League in the 2020-2021 season will not be charged.

(A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club must be made initially 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) An all-female team can apply to the Competition to play an age group down in a mixed gender competition, subject to the rule 8A(iii) & (iv) and provided the team has obtained approval from its Sanctioning Authority.

(G) All payments to the competition must be made in the form of an electronic payment or cheque drawn on the club's 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 18 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 Club Secretaries and sent to the League 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 thereafter, 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 Chairperson 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.

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- (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 or facsimile.

Rule 7: Protests, Claims, Complaints and 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.
- (B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decides 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 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 (Final Constitution may come later subject to Teams and registrations completed by 1st August.
 - 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 businesses of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.
- (B) A copy of the 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 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 is 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 a meeting.

Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs.

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 must do so at least 14 days before the AGM. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (B) The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including but not limited to, issuing a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

- (C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6 (I), in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in the excess of £50, the Management Committee shall be empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

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 28 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 £350 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 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) Player registration is through the FA Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition. It is the Clubs responsibility to provide clear photos and ID for players during the registration process. The Player Registration System will determine if a player is eligible to play in a set age group. Once all data is added to The Player Registration System then you must submit to the league for approval. Player registrations must be submitted to the league 72 hours prior to a scheduled match.

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

(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.

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- (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. Girls in all female teams may also be permitted to play an age group down in accordance with Rule 4(F).

The age groups that children are eligible to play in are set out in the table below, subject to Rule 4(F), along with the permitted football formats for each of those age groups. 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 2021	Eligible for	Match format	Minimum pitch size (yards)	Maximum pitch size (yards)	Goal size (feet)	Ball size
7	U8	5v5	30x20	40x30	12v6	3
	U9	5v5	30x20	40x30	12v6	3
8	U9	5v5	30x20	40x30	12v6	3
	U10	7v7	50x30	60x40	12v6	3
9	U10	7v7	50x30	60x40	12v6	3
	U11	7v7	50x30	60x40	12v6	4
10	U11	7v7	50x30	60x40	12v6	4
	U12	9v9	70x40	80x50	16x7	4
11	U12	9v9	70x40	80x50	16x7	4
	U13	9v9	70x40	80x50	16x7	4
12	U13	9v9	70x40	80x50	16x7	4
	U14	11v11	90x50	110x70	21x7	4

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13	U14	11v11	90x50	110x70	21x7	4
	U15	11v11	90x50	110x70	24x8	5
14	U15	11v11	90x50	110x70	24x8	5
	U16	11v11	100x50	130x100	24x8	5
15	U16	11v11	100x50	130x100	24x8	5
	U18	11v11	100x50	130x100	24x8	5
16	U18	11v11	100x50	130x100	24x8	5
17	U18	11v11	100x50	130x100	24x8	5

- (D) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered, if applicable.
- (E) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes taking into account the following.
- (i) A Player shall not be permitted to register for more than one Club subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) below.
 - (ii) In the event of a Player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club 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 this league and will not play the maximum playing time for their age group on a daily basis 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:-
 Play for more than one Team in the same age group in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.
 Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season, except for the provisions set out in Rule 18E(iii) apply.
 Submit a registration through the Player Registration System 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 via the Player Registration System and the Management committee will process such request. In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision.

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- (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. HGFPL requires this to be done electronically on The FA Full-Time System.

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 may be registered jointly for two teams in the same Club and age group. It is the Clubs responsibility to make sure that such dual signed players in age groups U8-U11 do not breach FA rules of maximum playing times. If a club is found to have breached this then the Management Committee will decide what action to take. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fines Tariff.

- (K) A register containing the names of all Players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept on the WGS and be accessed 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) A Team shall not include more than 2 Players that have taken part in 1 or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season unless the period of 21 days has elapsed since they last played.

- (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 matches 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. School Postponement Forms to be submitted to the Fixture at least 7 days prior to the event.
- (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) Player Registration System Squad Lists of all players must be given to the opposing team for checking prior to every HGFPL match. Players' details must be shared by printed lists and not via Smartphones or tablets due to safeguarding rules. 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 that are missing from the squad list are not 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 July 2021.

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- P) 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
U14 U15 U16 11 a side team shall be restricted to a squad of 18 players
U18 11 a side shall be unrestricted to fall in line with openage football

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

RULE 19: CLUB COLOURS

Every Team 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. 31st July 2021
Any Team 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 **AWAY** Team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick-off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours they shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Shirts must all be numbered differently, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the fines tariff.

Names of Youth Players shall not appear on the shirts, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines tariff.

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. Kick off times are located in the Match notes.

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 on the FA's website.

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HGFPL Match Timings

Age Group	Minimum Duration of Play per quarter (Mins) Mini-Soccer	Maximum Duration of Play per quarter (Mins) Mini-Soccer	Minimum Duration of Play per Half (Mins)	Maximum Duration of Play per Half (Mins)	Maximum playing time in one day in all organised development fixtures (mins)	Maximum playing time in one day in all tournaments and trophy events
U8	5	10	10	20	40	60
U9 & U10	10	12.5	20	25	60	90
U11	N/A	N/A	20	30	80	120
U12	N/A	N/A	20	30	80	120
U13 & U14	N/A	N/A	25	35	100	150
U15 & U16	N/A	N/A	25	40	100	150
U17 & U18	N/A	N/A	25	45	120	180

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.

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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). (i.e. by 9pm on the previous Monday for the Saturday matches)

- (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 approved by the Fixtures Secretary with the two clubs. 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 not be given further fixtures 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 2022.

(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 and use up to 3 substitutes.

Where a Competition does allow repeat substitutes:

For Under 12s - Under 16s - a Club may use up to 5 from 5 substitute players.

For Under 17s and Under 18s – a Club may use up to 7 from 7 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 matches 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 teammates. 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, i.e. online completion of the 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.

Both Clubs shall use SMS via FA Full Time as directed by 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

- (B) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Club, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (C) The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect but NOT publish results or any grading tables for fixtures involving Under 7s, Under 8s, Under 9s, Under 10s, and Under 11s. Any Competition failing to abide by this Rule will be dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and any Club failing to abide by this Rule will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect and publish results for trophy events.

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. Goal difference will not be taken into account to determine a winner.

- (B) Automatic promotion shall be applied for the first 2 teams and automatic relegation will be applied to the last 2 teams in each division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(L).
- (i) Should one or two teams withdraw from any one division after the Playing Season has commenced an equal number of Teams to those withdrawing in that division shall not be automatically relegated.
- (ii) Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the Playing Season may be filled in any of the following ways:
- (a) retention of otherwise relegated Team(s); or
 - (b) additional promotion of the next ranked Team(s) from the division below; or
 - (c) election
- (iii) The last Team in the lowest division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of Rule 22(B)(i) above.
- (iv) Should either or both of the leading Teams in any of the divisions have a Team in the next higher division, promotion shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next highest Team or Teams in the division concerned.
- (v) Should either or both of the relegated Teams in any of the divisions have a Team in the next lower division, relegation shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next lowest Team or Teams in the division concerned.
- (C) In addition to the Team(s) automatically promoted under Rule 22(B), a maximum of one further Team shall be promoted by virtue of being the winner of a play-off match or series of matches. The eligibility criteria and format will be determined by the Management Committee.

- (D) In the event of a Team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing Season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Team shall be expunged from the Competition table. For the purpose of this Rule 22(D) a completed fixture shall include any Competitions Match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee.

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.

- (E) 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.
- (F) 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.
- (G) 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

5v5	£20
7v7	£20
9v9	£22
U14, U15, U16	£28
U18	£35

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	Referee fee per team
U12	2 games: 20 minutes each way	£16.50
U13	2 games: 25 minutes each way	£16.50
U14	2 games: 25 minutes each way	£21.00
U15	2 games: 25 minutes each way	£21.00
U16	2 games: 25 minutes each way	£21.00
U18	2 games: 27.5 minutes each way	£26.25

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 matches 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 after the game.

FEES TARIFF

Rule number	Description	Maximum fee
4 (A)	Club entry fee	£50
4 (B)	Club / team annual subscription	5v5 = £60 7v7 = £70 9v9 = £80 11v11 = £90 Exempt for teams previously entered in 2020-2021 season
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	N/A
23 (E)	Referee fees	U8, U9 £20 U10, U11 £20 U12, U13 £22 U14, U15, U16 £28 U18 £35
23 (E)	Assistant referee fees	As agreed with sanctioning authority

FINES TARIFF

Rule number	Description	Maximum fee
2 (G)	Failure to affiliate	Max £100
2 (I)	Failure to comply with FA initiatives / respect campaign	£100 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	£100.00
6(I)	Failure to pay a fine within required time frame (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

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		being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding payments are settled.
8(H)	Failure to be represented at AGM	£30.00
9	Failure to be represented at SGM	£30.00
10	Failure to submit the required written agreement or to notify changes to signatories/directory	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 return a trophy in good condition, engraved with the season and team name by 31 st march each year	£25
16(A)	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(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

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18 (M)	Fielding more than the permitted number of players who have participated in senior competitions matches	Max £100.00
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

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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
20(E)(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	£20.00
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	£10.00