



League Rules 2021-2022

May 2021

This Competition is sanctioned by the Hertfordshire Football Association (HFA)



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MHRML LEAGUE RULES 2021-2022 SEASON

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Standard Code of Rules for Mini-Soccer and Youth Football Competitions

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association for Mini Soccer and Youth Football Competitions (the “Standard Code”).

The Standard Code is mandatory for all Mini Soccer and Youth Football Competitions.

Competitions seeking sanction must draft their Rules in conformity with the Standard Code, using the same numbering and standard headings.

The mandatory rules are printed in normal text and the optional rules in italics.

It should be noted that in many cases rules are so printed because they are alternatives and the procedure to apply should be retained and the others omitted.

In all cases where a [] is shown the necessary name, address, number or wording to complete that rule must be inserted.

Competitions may add to the core of the Standard Code, which is mandatory, providing the additions are approved by the Sanctioning Authority and do not conflict with the mandatory rules or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA. Guidance from the Sanctioning Authority should be sought in advance if there is any doubt as to the acceptability of additional rules

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 **Mid Herts Rural Minors 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 at 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 at Schedule A.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Sanctioning Authority” means 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.

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

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

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

(B) 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.

Rule 2 - Competition Name and Constitution

- (A) The Competition will be known as **The Mid Herts Rural Minors League** (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.
- (B) This Competition shall consist of not more than **85** Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority
- (C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be 15 miles radius of Hertford Town centre. Any Member Club who wishes to move their registered home pitches to outside the 15 mile radius after Season 2013/2014 must write to the General Secretary for approval. Any final decision on approval will be made by the Management Committee.
- (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 for Youth Competitions (the “Standard Code”) determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the 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 a 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.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding sixteen [16] 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 a SGM called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the constitution of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 22.

Rule 3 - Club Name

Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority and from the Management Committee.

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

Rule 4 – Entry Fee, Subscription, Deposit

(A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club must be made in writing to the Secretary **no later than 15th March** and must be accompanied by an entry fee per Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

The Management Committee will complete the interview process for all new Clubs by **15th April**.

At the discretion of the voting members present applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the AGM or a SGM or on a date agreed by the Management Committee.

(B) The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club/Team (where a Club has more than one Team in membership of the Competition) and shall be payable on or before **the AGM** each year.

(C) A Deposit (**to be determined at the AGM**) shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club/Team (where a Club provides more than one Team in membership of the Competition) and shall be payable on or before **the AGM** each year.

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

- (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, its 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 rule 8A(iii)&(iv) and provided the team has obtained approval from its Sanctioning Authority.
- (G) All payments to the Competition [League] must be in the form of a cheque drawn on the Club's account or an on-line payment from a Club's account, and no cash will be accepted.

Rule 5 – Management, Nomination, Election

- (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and **any** members who shall all be elected at the AGM.
- (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 the **14 days prior to the AGM** 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 Clubs, **not later than 14 days before the AGM** in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.

- (C) The Management Committee shall meet as and when required, save that no more than three calendar months shall pass between each meeting.

On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee.

- (D) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.
- (E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary.
Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Rule 6 – Powers of Management

- (A)** The Management Committee may appoint sub-committee and delegates such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association.
- (B)** Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any Club which may have withdrawn during the season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.

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

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

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

With the exception of Rules 6(I) 8(H) and 9, in relation to any alleged breaches of a Rule the Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given 7 days from the date of the 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)** Five (5) of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee or three (3) for 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 Clubs right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting of notification of the decision.

Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

- (J)** A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.
- (K)** The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition Playing Season.
- (L)** The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.
 - (i)** The Management Committee may also transact business by telephone conference calls as and when necessary or any other appropriate electronic communication
- (M)** A club failing to be represented at a General Meeting may be fined £50 for each occasion and failing to be represented at three consecutive meetings shall be dealt with as the Management Committee may determine. In accordance with Rule 6 (D).

- (A) The Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged is required to respond to the charge within 7 days from the date of notification of the charge. In such reply a Club may:-
- (i) Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
 - (ii) Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee
 - (iii) Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers;
- (B) 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).

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 decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within 7 (Seven) days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.
- (C)** No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.
- (D)** All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.
- (i) All parties must have received 7 (Seven) days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
 - (ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then they should forward a deposit of £10 and indicate such when forwarding the written response.

- (E)** The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to 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; or
 - (ii) convene a hearing to hear the appeal; or
 - (iii) permit new evidence; or
 - (iv) impose deadlines as are appropriate.
- Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.
- (G)** No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

Rule 8 – Annual General Meeting

- (A)** The AGM shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 65% members are present and entitled to vote:-
- (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding AGM.
 - (ii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
 - (iii) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
 - (iv) Constitution of the Competition for ensuing Season.
 - (v) Election of Officers and Management Committee members.
 - (vi) Appointment of auditors.
 - (vii) Alteration of Rules, if any (See Rule 14).
 - (viii) Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
 - (ix) Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season.
 - (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.
- (B)** A copy of the duly a verified balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting together with any proposed Rule changes.
- (C)** A signed copy of the duly verified balance sheet and statement of accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM.
- (D)** Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. 14 days' notice shall be given of any AGM.

- (E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Playing Season being concluded. *This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 12.*
- (F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.
- (G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.
- (H) Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM.

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

- (I) Officers of the Competition 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 an SGM.

The Management Committee may call a SGM at any time.

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

Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all 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 and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Special General Meetings.

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 [] Football Club (Limited) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the [] Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 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 Hertfordshire 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, withdrawal of a Club

- (A)** (i) *Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition must do so by the 31st March each season. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22(B).*

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

- (ii) All Clubs wishing to remain in the Competition for the following Season must re-apply for the election in to the League, in writing, to the General Secretary by the 30th April of the current season.
- (iii) All Clubs must make formal application for teams that they wish to enter the League for the following season, by the time of the AGM. The appropriate entry fees, annual subscription and/or deposit must be paid to the league at the AGM. If any team is withdrawn after the date of the AGM but before the scheduled start of the season, then the Club will be liable for 100% of the entry fee.

- (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 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 or Team. 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 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 or Team 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/or (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 [name] and B [name], the Chairman and Secretary of [] FC(Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of [] Cup or Trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the Cup or Trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before **31st March** each year. 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 – Alteration to Rules

Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Association, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at an SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to the Rule relating to the qualification of Players 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 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 **£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 **30th April**.

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

Rule 16 - Insurance

- (A) 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 the Club affiliates.

Failure to comply with Rule 16 (A) or Rule 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 Association.
 - (ii) If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Sanctioning Association may decide.

Match Related Rules

Rule 18 – Qualification of Players

- (A) A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:-
- (1) Registered through the FA Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition

For the purpose of this Competition a Player is one who, has been issued with a valid League registration card which is in the physical possession of an official of the Club prior to the player playing. (NB For clarity this means the actual registration card, not an electronic or paper copy). **This is a League Rule**

Any registration that is not fully and correctly completed will be returned to the Club unprocessed and the player classed as unregistered. If a Club attempts to register a player via the Player Registration System but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via the Player Registration System, the registration will not be processed.

For Clubs registering Players under Rule 18 (A) 2 registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition. For Clubs registering Players via the Player Registration System Clubs must access the Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process. The registration document must incorporate a current passport-size photograph of the Player seeking registration together with confirmation that the Player's proof of date of birth has been checked by the Club and is accurate.

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

(2) Registration spreadsheet(s) are to be submitted to **registrations@midherts.com** by electronic mail prior to the Player playing in a Competition Match. The original document must be forwarded by post within three days of the match to the appropriate Officer if requested.

(i) The registration document **must** incorporate a current passport-size photograph of the Player seeking registration together with confirmation that the Player's proof of date of birth has been checked by the Club and is accurate. **The League reserve the right to see proof of date of birth for all newly registered players.** Acceptable proof is a copy of either birth certificate or passport, or other official document issued by a Government Agency attesting to the player's date of birth

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

(ii) Replacement registration cards to replace lost ones will be charged at £1 each.

(iii) The registration card of a player who is suspended shall be surrendered to the Discipline Chairman together with a SAE for its return. The registration card is to be posted to the Discipline Team before the date the suspension commences. The player's registration with the Competition is regarded as having been withdrawn on the date the suspension commences. The registration card shall be retained by the Discipline Team for the duration of the suspension and will be returned to the player's Club Secretary when the suspension ends.

(iv) Failure to send the registration card to the Discipline Team on the occasion of the imposition of a suspension shall result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff being imposed on the Club for whom the suspended player is registered.

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

(v) A Player does **not** become eligible to play for any team in this Competition until the Club registering the Player is in physical possession of the MHRML ID Card. **This is a League Rule**

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

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

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

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

Each Team must have the following number of Players registered 7 days before the start of each Playing Season:

FORMAT	MINIMUM NUMBER
5 v 5	5
7 v 7	7
9 v 9	9
11 v 11	11

- (a) Each 11 a-side team shall be restricted to 18 [eighteen] players within the Competition with the exception of U17 / U18 that may sign up to 22 players.
- (b) Each 9 a-side team shall be restricted to 14 players.
- (c) Each Mini soccer (7 a-side) team shall be restricted to 12 players within the Competition
- (d) Each 5 a-side Under 7's & Under 8's shall be restricted to 8 players within the Competition

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

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

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

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

N.B. This Competition plays:

- Mini Soccer at Under 7 to Under 10
- 9 v 9 Football at Under 11 to Under 12
- 11 v 11 Football at Under 13 to Under 18

Age on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season	Eligible Age Groups	Maximum Permitted Format	Minimum Pitch Sizes		Maximum Pitch Sizes		Recommended Goal Sizes in feet	Ball Size
			Yards	Metres	Yards	Metres		
6	Under 7	5 v 5	30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	3
	Under 8		30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	3
7	Under 8	5 v 5	30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	3
	Under 9	7 v 7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
8	Under 9	7 v 7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
	Under 10		50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
9	Under 10	7 v 7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
	Under 11	9 v 9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
10	Under 11	9 v 9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
	Under 12		70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
11	Under 12	9 v 9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
	Under 13	11 v 11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	4
12	Under 13	11 v 11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	4
	Under 14		90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	4
13	Under 14	11 v 11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	4
	Under 15		90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
14	Under 15	11 v 11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
	Under 16		90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
15	Under 16	11 v 11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
	Under 17		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5
	Under 18		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5
16	Under 17	11 v 11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5
	Under 18		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5
	Open Age		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	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 the same age group; or
 - b. Except for the purpose of transfer and the Player meets the requirements in Rule 18(C).

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

- (i) Play for more than one Team in the same age group in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.
- (ii) Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season, except if the provisions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) apply.
- (iii) Submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through the Player Registration 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 (E)(iii) below.
- (ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player, the exercise of such power being without prejudice to the Management Committee's ability to fine a Club at its discretion in accordance with the Fines Tariff that has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7)
- (iii) The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. Where the Management Committee does not have enough information to enable it to make a decision pursuant to the above power, it may apply, in its absolute discretion, to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA for further information.
- Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.
- (iv) For a Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18(G)(iii) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

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

- (H)** Subject to compliance with FA Rule C 2(a) when a Club wishes to register a Player who is already registered with another Club it shall submit a transfer form to the Competition (in a format as determined by the Competition) to the Competition accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fees Tariff. Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the Club for which the Player is registered. Should this Club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the Player concerned within 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee transfer the Player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or 3 days after receipt of such transfer. All transfers shall be limited to two per player, per season. **This is a League Rule.**

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

The Club Secretary of the present team must advise the New Club Secretary on the transfer form whether the player has played in a League Cup, Divisional Cup or Special Match (County Cup etc) prior to the date of the transfer in the current season as any player may not play for more than one team in the MHRML Cups or Special Matches within the League in any one season.

- (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.

No player will be permitted a transfer between the start of the MHRML season and the 30th September.

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

In the event a Club has more than one Team in an age group, each Team must be clearly identifiable but not designated 'A' or 'B' or 1st or 2nd. In such cases, Players will be registered for one Team only. A Player so registered will be allowed to play for his Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 18(C).

- (K)** A register containing the names of all Players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the (*Registrations*) Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of an Officer of the Club 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 18(B)(i).

- (L)** A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in Rule 22(A)) unless the Player has played 2 Competition Matches for that Team 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 1 player who has taken part in 1 or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season, unless a period of 21 days has elapsed since they last played.

For the purpose of this Rule, a senior competition is Eastern Junior Alliance.

- (N)** (i) Subject to Rule 18(N)(ii), any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition Match or Matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Competition Match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (ii) The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18(N)(i) only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.
- (iii) Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible player in accordance with Rule 18(N)(i) above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion:
- (a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed;
 - (b) Levy penalty points against the Club in default; or
 - (c) Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

(The following Clause applies to Competitions involving Players in FULL-TIME SECONDARY EDUCATION):-

- (O)** (i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities.

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

- (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with the head teachers (except for Sunday Competitions).
- (iii) A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August in a Playing Season, shall not be permitted to play in a Competition Match during that Playing Season where any other Player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.

- (P)** Prior to the commencement of each match, teams must line up in the centre of the pitch and each team member must present their registration card to the opposition Manager. Players at U12 and above, must have a valid MHRML ID card for the team in which they are playing. Proven failure to produce cards will result in a fine (in accordance with Fines tariff) for Sunday fixtures, and the match being awarded to the opposing team. In the event of ONE or BOTH clubs being unable to produce their Registration cards the match is NOT to be played. Both clubs are required to submit a written report within 24 hours to the Discipline team detailing in full the circumstances for the non-production of the cards. Any individual player whose identity card is not made available will not be permitted to participate in the match.

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

- (Q)** In the event that a manager is not satisfied that a player is the player on the identity card, the game should be played. The concerned manager should make his / her objection known to the Discipline Team by email within 24 hours and should then follow procedures set out in Rule 7.

Rule 19 - Colours

Every Team must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the General Secretary at the time of registration who shall decide as to their suitability.

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 **7 (Seven)** 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.

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 Matches in the 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 FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches. All Football Turf Pitches used must be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every three years and the results passed to The FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.

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

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

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

Age Group	<u>Minimum Duration of play per quarter (minutes)</u> <u>(Mini-Soccer)</u>	<u>Maximum Duration of play per quarter (minutes)</u> <u>(Mini-Soccer only)</u>	Minimum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all organised development fixtures (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all tournaments and trophy events/festivals (minutes)	Competition structure
Under 7 and Under 8	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	10	20	40	60	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 2 week periods (6 weeks)
Under 9 and Under 10	<u>10</u>	<u>12.5</u>	20	25	60	90	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 4 week periods (12 weeks)
Under 11	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	20	30	80	120	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 6 week periods (18 weeks)
Under 12	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	20	30	80 (if applicable)	120	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 13 and Under 14	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	25	35	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table

Under 15 and Under 16	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	25	40	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 17 and Under 18	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	25	45	120	180	Any varieties including one season long league table

Competition Matches for age groups from U7 to U10 can be played in either quarters or halves. In this Competition U7 and U8 use quarters, U9 and U10 use halves.

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 mutual consent of the two competing Clubs prior to the scheduled date of the Competition Match with written notification given to the Competition at least 5 days prior.

No match shall kick off earlier than 10.00 am or later than 3.00 pm, unless the Management Committee so decides, or gives express permission. Kick off shall be limited to 10:00-2:30 pm during the months of November-February inclusive.

Any Club failing to commence 10 [ten] minutes after the appointed time shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine. Any delay exceeding 20 [twenty] minutes from the agreed kick-off time shall deem the game as a non-fulfilment and the offending team will be dealt with as appropriate.

Continuing misconduct on this point will result in the Club being requested to explain its failings to the Management Committee at a convened meeting.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Referee Co-Ordinator

The home Team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two **MHRML** footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable.

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

- (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 match with the consent of the (*Fixtures*) Secretary.

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

In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs must be given by the Competition 5 clear days' notice of the match (i.e. by 9.00 pm the previous Monday in relation to a Saturday match and 9.00pm on Tuesday in relation to a Sunday match) unless otherwise mutually agreed.

- (i) If a team is notified that it is to play in a Parent County FA Competition fixture on the same day as a league or League Cup match the Club concerned shall notify the appropriate Fixture Secretary within 48 hours of receiving such notification, and the League or League Cup match may be postponed. If a Parent County FA match is postponed, the appropriate Fixture Secretary must be notified within 24 hours of that match of the re-scheduled date. A Club failing to comply with this instruction shall be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).
- (ii) There will be no fixtures scheduled for the Christmas period Saturday and Sunday (2 weeks in total also including when Christmas falls on a weekend) There will be no fixtures (1 week only) for Easter (this includes the Saturday before & Easter Sunday only).

Non Published age groups (U7-U11) are entitled to 5 [Five] 'free weeks' which will be granted to a team providing the request is received in writing by the Fixture Secretary at least 21 days before the match date required.

Published age groups (U12-U18) are entitled to 2 [Two] 'free weeks' which will be granted to a team providing the request is received in writing by the Fixture Secretary at least 21 days before the match date required.

NOTE :-

- school trips/events will count against a 'free week' request
- a 'free week' request will be granted at the discretion of the Fixture Secretary
- half term fixtures are at the discretion of the Fixture Secretary

If requesting a 'free week' for school trip/event under a 7 day notice a school letter is needed showing the names of the players' that are unable to play the published fixture. A free week will only be granted under a 7day notice for a school trip/event if the team has **less** than the minimum players required to play a fixture with those unavailable.

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

- (C) An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least 5 (five) clear days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. (i.e. by 9.00 pm the previous Monday in relation to a Saturday match and 9.00pm on Tuesday in relation to a Sunday match). If not provided, the away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition (Fixture Secretary). The notice required in relation to midweek matches is 48 hours.

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
5 v 5	4
7 v 7	5
9 v 9	6
11 v 11	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 fixture has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the (Fixtures) Secretary, the Competition Referees Co-Ordinator, the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials.

A team, which fails to fulfil 3 (three) or more fixtures during a season **may have fixtures withdrawn from them and may not have** further participation in the League Competition until the Club concerned submits a written explanation to the Management Committee as to the reason for its non-fulfilment of its fixtures. The report should be submitted within 7 days of notification of fixtures being withdrawn to the Discipline Team.

Failure to do so may result in further action being taken under Rule 6H

- (iii) In the event of a Competition Match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the (Fixtures) Secretary within 7 days the Management Committee shall have the power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand.

Additionally, for clarity, in the event of a postponement due to unplayable pitches or adverse weather conditions, it is the responsibility of both Teams to make all efforts to play the game. If an alternative pitch can be found or the fixture can be reversed (within 24 hours of the scheduled match) then this must occur, even if the fixture has already been reversed (this may mean that teams play both fixtures at home or away). Teams should not be stood down until both Teams have confirmed with their Fixture Secretary that an alternative pitch cannot be secured.

If either Manager refuses to play or has stood their team down, without seeking an alternative pitch, the Discipline Committee will ask for a written explanation from the Manager concerned. If the Discipline Committee finds the written explanation invalid or it is not received, they may impose a non-fulfilment fine and/or award the game to the opposing team.

The reason for postponement must be recorded on the Result Card. Home Team i.e. unable to field required number of players (PRN/A) (Fixture will not necessarily be rescheduled an appeal must be submitted) Away Team i.e. unable to field required number of players (PRN/B) (Fixture will not necessarily be rescheduled an appeal must be submitted)

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 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 match must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

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

Where a Competition does allow repeat substitutes:

For Under 11s - Under 18s

Up to 5 may be selected from 5 substitute Players. A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace any Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

For Mini-Soccer - U7s - U10s

Any number from 3 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 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 play a minimum of 50% of the total match play time in Mini Soccer.

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 match and a Player not so named may not take part in the match.

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

- (G)** The half time interval shall be of 5 minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the Referee.

- (H)** The Teams taking part in Under 7s to Under 11 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.

- (I)** The Competition shall require all players and Club officials to have signed the FA's Respect Codes of Conduct and produce these if so requested by the League Management Committee.

Prior to each match the participating teams and officials shall conduct the 'Respect' handshake and/or participating teams to offer and handshakes to the opposing team after the match.

All Clubs to have 'Respect Barriers', rope and cones are acceptable a painted line is not acceptable, and all should be placed at least 3 (three) feet from the 'Touchline' All spectators from both teams shall stand on one side of the pitch behind the 'Respect Barriers', all coaches and managers and player substitutes shall stand on the opposite side of the pitch.

A fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff will be imposed on Clubs failing to observe this rule. Please see appendix from FA Guidance.

- (J)** The Management Committee reserves the right to hold Supplementary Competitions. Entry will be at the Management Committee's discretion, and any such competition will be held in accordance with the League Rules
- (K)** The Management Committee may for any reason instructs teams to play two short games on one day (double headers) these will only apply to published results. The KO of both games must be within the timeframe of the League Rules, unless mutually agreed between both teams and the League.

The times shall apply as per our rule 20 (B) iv

- U12s 20 minutes each way
- U13's and U14's 25 minutes each way
- U15's and U16's 25 minutes each way
- U17's and U18's 30 minutes each way

Referees fees will be paid at one and half times the normal referee fees as per Rule (E).

Home and away team to split the official's fee between them.

Age Group	Total Fee £	Home Fee £	Away Fee £
Under 12	41.25	20.75	20.50
Under 13 & U14	45.00	22.50	22.50
Under 15 & U16	48.00	24.00	24.00
Under 17 & U18	60.00	30.00	30.00

In addition, the Management Committee may also instruct that matches be played mid-week. Midweek matches should be played between teams within ten miles of each other (as the crow flies. (KO no earlier than 6:00 pm, unless agreed by both teams) on an agreed date between the teams involved during the week instructed by the fixture secretary. Should the two teams involved not be able to agree a date the fixture Secretary will decide the day the match is to be played.

- (L)** No scheduled fixture shall be allowed to be played as a '*friendly*'. Any Club failing to comply shall be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- (M)** Match Delegates

ALL MATCHES shall have a nominated 'match delegate' by each team, each delegate shall wear a MHRML 'Match Delegate' Bib provided by the League (one per team, replacements will have to be paid for) MUST be introduced to the referee before 'Kick-off' and shall assist the referee where necessary i.e. keeping parents back from the touchline. Please see appendix at the back of the Rules.

Failing to supply and introduce a match delegate to the referee wearing a Bib shall result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Rule 21 – Reporting Results

- (A) The Home Club/both Clubs shall use telephone/SMS/email/ FA Full Time / FA Matchday or as **directed by the Competition** to notify the result of each Competition Match to the Competition by 6pm on the following day of the scheduled match.

A result card must be completed on **Mitoo** website for each published fixture without fail before 6pm on the following day of the scheduled game. The Referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition should be completed.

Failure to do so will incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide

Result Cards are not required for postponed matches but notice of postponement must be e-mailed or text to your relevant Fixture Secretary on the day of the match by 6pm

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

(i) The non-MHRML Referee report card must be submitted by the Home team to the Referee Co-Ordinator within 48 hours of the match taking place

- (B) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Club, or as prescribed by the Competition.

Failure to do so 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.

A fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff may be imposed for a breach of this Rule.

- (E) The Competition may require a Club to confirm that a set fixture has been played.

A fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff may be imposed for a breach of this Rule.

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 match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the conclusion 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 Team rankings may be determined by deciding match(es) played under conditions determined by the Management Committee, or the position shared.

- (B) **Not adopted by this Competition**

- (C) **Not adopted by this Competition**

(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 purposes of this Rule 22(D) a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee.

- (i) If a team has completed 75% or more of its fixtures and withdraws from the Competition, any outstanding or unscheduled matches shall be awarded to the opposition.

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) Referees to be allocated to fixtures by 11am on Monday before the fixtures are due to be played.
- (ii) Clubs then have up to 9pm on Monday for Saturday fixtures and 9pm on Tuesday for Sunday fixtures to confirm the appointment with the referee in line with League Rule 10D.
- (iii) If the Referee is not available then the Clubs are to email the Referee Co-Ordinator before 9pm on the Tuesday with the age group, venue and kick off time for their fixture.
- (iv) The Referees Co-Ordinator will then contact all referees to find suitable replacements for the matches where the referee is unavailable, they will also update the Mitoo website.
- (v) If no Referee can be found for the fixture by 10pm on Wednesday evening then responsibility to find a Referee will be passed back to Clubs in line with the League Rule 23 (B).

(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. 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.

The following procedure will be adopted to reach agreement:

- (i) The Home Team should attempt to secure the services of an independent (An independent Referee is a Non-MHRML registered Referee) registered Referee who is affiliated to a County FA.
- (ii) If the Home Team has been unable to secure an independent registered referee, they should contact the manager of the Away Team no less than 48 hrs before the scheduled kick off time for the match.
- (iii) The Away Team can then have the opportunity to secure the services of an independent registered referee who is affiliated to a County FA.
- (iv) If both Home and Away Team have been unable to secure the services of an independent registered referee then both Managers must agree on a suitable replacement.

(v) The Away Team Manager will have the opportunity to make the first suggestion as to who be given the task of acting as the referee. If the Away Team Manager is unable to do so, then the Home Team Manager will then make a suggestion.

(vi) The order of preference for use of Referee's is as follows:

- 1) Referee appointed by the Leagues Referees Co-Ordinator
- 2) Independent registered Referee who is affiliated to a County FA
- 3) (Manager) Parent or Official of Away Team
- 4) (Manager) Parent or Official of Home Team

A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee. In the event of teams being unable to find a suitable substitute and the match is not played, the match will be shown as void [no points or re-scheduling] unless the Management Committee decides otherwise. In such circumstances both clubs must supply written circumstances to the Discipline Team within 7 days of the match.

(C) Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee.

(i) The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match

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 matches and that decision shall be final *subject to either in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, the representative of that body is the sole arbiter and whose decision must be accepted.*

(E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the fees tariff (Inclusive of travel expenses) as follows:-

Under 7	£16.00	Under 11	£27.00	Under 15	£32.00
Under 8	£16.00	Under 12	£27.00	Under 16	£32.00
Under 9	£22.00	Under 13	£30.00	Under 17	£40.00
Under 10	£22.00	Under 14	£30.00	Under 18	£40.00

Match Officials will be paid their fees by the home Club before/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.

Registered Referees appointed by the Management Committee, as Assistant Referees shall be paid the same fee, subject to any limits laid down by the sanctioning Association(s). Where Assistant Referees are appointed, the total cost of the fees payable to officials shall be shared equally by the participating clubs.

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

(F) In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee. Where a match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee.

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

(G) A Referee not keeping his or her engagement and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which he or she is registered.

(H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the referee for each match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

If the referee is awarded a mark of **60 [Sixty]** or less, [please see attached Appendix] the Club must submit a report to The Discipline Chairman [plus a copy] to the Referees Co-Ordinator within 7 [seven] days of the date of the match

(I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Playing Season, shall submit a summary to The FA/County FA

(J) The Referee shall submit a report form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the Competition Match, the number of players in each Team, the time of kick-off, full details of caution offences and dismissals, and any other additional disciplinary information to the Discipline Chairman within 2 [two] days of the match

(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 Competition.

(M) The referee appointed by the Referee Co-Ordinator must officiate at the match. When a Club requires a substitute referee the Club must first contact the Referee Co-Ordinator for a replacement. In the absence of a substitute referee Rule 23[B] applies. When a Club appoints a referee, the nominated person's name shall be communicated to the opposition Team Manager and the Referee Co-Ordinator straightaway (before the game, or within 24 hours of the match taking place).

Failure to do so will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff

(N) In the event that the appointed referee is not used for their appointed match and the home team is proven not to have contacted the referee, when the appointed official is available then that club shall be liable to a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

A Club cannot arrange their own Referee without first contacting the Referee Co-Ordinator who will where possible re-allocate another referee. **This is a League Rule**

Failure to do so will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff being imposed on the defaulting Club

Schedule A Fees Tariff

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	FEE
4 (A)	Entry fee	£TBA at AGM
4 (B)	Annual subscription	£TBA at AGM
4 (C)	Deposit	£TBA at AGM
18 (A) (1)	Registration form	£Nil(per Player)
18 (H)	Player Transfer	£5.00
23 (E)	Referee fees	See fees table
23 (E)	Assistant referee fees	See fees table
7 (D,F)	Protest/appeal fees	£35.00 (£10 Schoolboys)

Schedule B Fines Tariff

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2 (G)	Failure to Affiliate	£100.00
2 (I)	Failure to comply with FA initiatives	£100.00
2 (K)	Unauthorised entry of teams into competitions	£100.00
4 (C)	Failure to pay a deposit	£100.00
4 (E)	Failure to provide Affiliation number/details form	£100.00
5 (E)	Communications conducted by persons other than nominated Officers	£25.00
6 (H)	Failure to comply with an instruction of The Management Committee	£100.00
6 (I)	Failure to pay a fine within required timeframe	£100.00
6 (M)	Failure to attend a General Meeting	£50.00
8 (H)	Failure to be represented at AGM	£100.00
9	Failure to be represented at a Special General Meeting	£100.00
10	Failure to submit the required written agreement or to notify changes to signatories	£25.00
11 (A)	Failure to provide notice of withdrawal before deadline	£100.00
11 (B)	Failure to commence or complete fixtures	£100.00
13 (A)	Failure to comply with Rule regarding the Trophy	£100.00
16 (A) + (B)	Failure to have the required insurance	£100.00
18 (A)(i)	Failure to correctly register a player	£40.00
18 (A)(2)(iv)	Failure to return card of a player who is suspended	£25.00
18 B(ii)	Failure to have the required number of registered players prior to the season commencing	£25.00
18 (F)	Signing or playing for multiple Clubs, or inaccurate completion of a Registration Form	£25.00
18 (G) (ii)	Registration Irregularities	£100.00
18 M	Fielding more than the permitted number of players who have participated in senior competitions	£100.00
18 (N)(i)	Playing an Ineligible Player	£100.00
18 (O)(i)	Failure to give priority to school activities	£50.00
18 (P)	Failure to produce Registration ID Cards	£50.00
19	Failure to number shirts	£10.00 (per shirt, with an aggregate max. of £30)
19	Failure to obtain consent for a change of Club Name	£30.00
19	Delaying Kick Off due to failure of no change of colours	£30.00

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
20 (A)	Delaying Kick Off due to failure to provide required equipment	£30.00
20 (B)	Failure to play matches on the date fixed	£100.00
20 (C)	Failure to provide details of a fixture	£50.00
20 (D)	Playing match with less than required number of players	£100.00
20 (E) (I) & (iii)	Failure to play fixture	£100.00
20 (H)	No Captains Armband	£10.00
20 (I)	Failure to provide a Respect Barrier	£25.00
20 (M)	Failure to introduce a Match Delegate/Match Delegate not wearing a bib	£18.00
21 (A) & 21 (C)	Late team sheet	£20.00
21 (B)	Failure to provide result	£20.00
21 (C)	Failure to correctly complete a team sheet	£20.00
21 (D)	Publishing results/grading tables for fixtures involving U7s, U8s, U9s, U10s or U11	£50.00
21 (E)	Failure to comply with Rule	£20.00
23 (C)	Failure to provide Club Assistant Referee	£25.00
23 (E)	Failure to pay Match Officials' Fees.	£25.00
23 (F)	Failure to pay Match Officials where a match is not played	£25.00
23 (H)	Failure to provide Referee's mark	£25.00
23 (M)& 23(N)	Failure to provide Referees name to opposition team Mgr and League/Failure to contact the Appointed Referee.	£35.00