



SOUTHERN COUNTIES FLOODLIT YOUTH LEAGUE

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.

DEFINITIONS

1. (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 Southern Counties Floodlit Youth 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.

“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 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.

“Participants” means an Affiliated Association, Competition, Club, Club Official, Intermediary, Player, Official, Match Officials, Management Committee member, member or employee of an Affiliated Club and all such persons who are from time to time participating in any activity sanctioned either directly or indirectly by the Association.

“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 that FA system to register players as determined by The 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 Hertfordshire County Football Association Limited.

“**Scholarship**” means a Scholarship as defined in The FA rules.

“**Season**” means the period of time between an Annual General Meeting and the subsequent Annual General Meeting.

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

“**SGM**” means a SGM 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 (1) Team in the Competition in accordance with the Rules.

“**Team Sheet**” means a form provided by the Competition on which the names of the Players taking part in a Competition Match are listed.

“**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

COMPETITION NAME AND CONSTITUTION

2. (A) The Competition shall be known as the Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League. The Clubs participating in the Competition shall 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 sixty (60) teams approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be from within the Counties of Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, London, Middlesex, Surrey & Suffolk.
- (D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules shall 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 provision 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 requirement of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.
- (G) All Clubs shall 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 shall have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Hertfordshire County Football Association and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in Divisions, each not exceeding twelve (12) in number.

(H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

- (i) The Competition and each Club shall 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 Club shall 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 shall 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, England Football Accredited 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 shall result in a fine (£20.00) 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 compilation of the Divisions at their discretion. When necessary, this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 22.

CLUB NAME

3. Any Club wishing to change its name shall obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority and from the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

4. (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club must be made in writing to the Secretary 1 May and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee for each Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, 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 SGM or on a date agreed by the Management Committee.

- (B) An Annual Subscription (£125.00 per Team) shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff and shall be payable on or before 1st July in each year. The Annual Subscription to include League Fees, Player Registrations and the weekly Bulletin sent by email.
- (C) A Deposit (£100.00 per Team) shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff and shall be payable on or before 1st July in each year. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Entry Fee, Annual Subscription and Deposit have been paid.
- (E) If requested by the Competition, Clubs shall advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 1st July of its Sanctioning Authority Affiliation Number for the forthcoming Playing Season.

Clubs shall 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 they shall be fined (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

5. (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers and two additional Committee members who shall be Club representatives of the Competition 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 1st June in each year.

All other candidates for election as Officers shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two (2) Member Clubs, not later than 1st

June 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 (3) calendar months shall pass between each meeting.
- (D) In addition to the AGM the Council shall meet in August and any other time, if decided by the Management Committee. Any Club failing to be represented at a Council Meeting shall be fined (£50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff if they have failed to attend two (2) consecutive meetings (£100.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff, unless Council finds there was sufficient reason for non-attendance.

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.

- (E) 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.
- (F) All communications received from Clubs shall be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary.

Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

- 6. (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 (1) 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 shall be taken within twenty-eight (28) days of the Competition being notified.

With the exception of Rules 5(I), 6(H) and 19 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 is required to respond to the charge within seven (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; 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 seven (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 shall ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

No Participant under the age of eighteen (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 shall be notified in writing to those concerned within seven (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 shall comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee and shall attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Subject to its right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges shall be paid within fourteen (14) days of the date of posting of notification of the decision.

Any Club failing to do so shall be fined (£50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional sum within a further fourteen (14) days shall 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 match may have any 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.

PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

- 7. (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 shall not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the Competition Match.
- (B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which shall contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) shall be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within seven (7) days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of their 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 of (£20.00) 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 shall receive a copy of the submission and shall be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least seven (7) days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.

(i) All parties shall have received seven (7) 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 (£20.00) in accordance with the Fees Tariff 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 shall be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within fourteen (14) days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee (£25.00) 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 shall 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.

AGM

8. (A) The AGM shall be held not later than 31 July in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least twelve (12) 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 Playing Season.

- (v) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
 - (vi) Appointment of Verifiers of Accounts.
 - (vii) Alteration of Rules, if any (See Rule 14).
 - (viii) Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
 - (ix) Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season.
 - (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.
- (B) A copy of the duly verified Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting together with any proposed changes.
- (C) A signed copy of the duly verified Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within fourteen (14) days of its adoption by the AGM.
- (D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two (2) delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one (1) vote only. Fourteen (14) days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.
- (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 shall not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 22.
- (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 (1) member Club.
- (H) Any continuing Club shall be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£50.00) 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 but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a Club (see Rule 8.G).
- (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.

SGMS

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

(B) The Management Committee may call an SGM at any time.

(C) At least seven (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.

(D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

(E) Any Club failing to be represented at a SGM shall be fined in accordance with the fine tariff

(F) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a Club (see Rule 9.D).

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

10. 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 Playing 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 Southern Counties Floodlit Youth 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 (2) Directors of the Club.

Any alteration of the Chairman and /or Secretary of the Club on the above agreement shall be notified to the Hertfordshire County Football Association to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary.

Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

11. (A) Any Club wishing to resign from the Competition shall in writing by March 31st each season. Failure to do so shall result in a fine £100.00 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 £100.00 in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6(l), in the event of a member Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50.00, the Management Committee are empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAM. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

12. (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 Rule 12(A) and Rule 12(B).

TROPHY

13. (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, members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of a 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 next. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair."
Winning Clubs are responsible for having their names and the season engraved on any Cup or Trophy in the manner of previous holders or be fined (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff. The League shall arrange suitable insurance cover.

- Any Club retaining a Cup or Trophy after the due date shall be fined (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff for each week or part thereof it is so held.
- (B) At the close of each Competition awards may be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

ALTERATION TO RULES

- 14.** Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, 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 these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season, except in exceptional circumstances where approved by Sanctioning Authority and The FA.
- Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 1st April 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 30th April. 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 more than two-thirds of those present and 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 Football Association at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the date of the meeting.
- Any alterations or additions decided upon at any meeting shall not become operative until the approval of the Association issuing sanction shall have been obtained.

FINANCE

- 15.** (A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition shall 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 (2) Officers nominated by the Management Committee.
- (C) The financial year of the Competition shall 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.

INSURANCE

- 16.** (A) All Clubs shall have valid public liability insurance cover of at least ten (10) million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (B) All Clubs shall have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident insurance cover shall 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 Association.

Failure to comply with Rule 16(A) or 16(B) shall result in a fine (£50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

DISSOLUTION

17. (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

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

18. (A) (i) A player is one, who, being in all other respects eligible, has:-
- (a) Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition Registration Form in ink, countersigned by his parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the Registration Secretary and the Club has received email confirmation of the completed registration prior to the player playing.
The registration document shall incorporate any known emergency contact details of the players parents or guardians. These details shall be available at matches and training events the player attends within the management of the Club or Competition.
- Or
- (b) Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition Registration Form in ink on a match day prior to playing, countersigned by his parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club and witnessed by an Officer of the opposing Club, and submitted to the Registration Secretary within two (2) days (Sundays excluded) subsequent to the match. The player shall not again play until the Club has

received email confirmation that the player is registered.

A maximum of three (3) players may be registered this way on any match day in accordance with Rule 18(A)(i)(b).

The registration document shall incorporate emergency contact details of the players parents or guardians. These details shall be available at matches and training events the player attends within the management of the Club or Competition.

Registration Forms for players registered under Rule 18(B)(ii) may be submitted by email or facsimile with the original Registration Form forwarded to the Registration Secretary within two (2) days (Sundays excluded) of the match.

Failure to comply with any part of this Rule shall result in a fine (£25.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

The Registration Secretary may request the sight of a players original Birth Certificate or other satisfactory evidence to verify his date of birth.

Failure to comply within seven (7) days the players registration shall be suspended until such time the Birth Certificate or other satisfactory evidence is produced and the Club shall be fined (£50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Or

(c) Any registration form which is sent by either of the means set out in Rule 8(A)(i)(a) or (b) above is not fully and correctly completed shall be returned to the Club unprocessed. If a Club attempts to register a player via WGS but does not fully and correctly complete the necessary information via WGS, the registration shall not be processed.

For Clubs registering players under Rules 8(A)(i)(a) or (b) registration forms shall be provided in a format determined by the Competition. For Clubs registering players via WGS (under Rule 18(A)(i)(c) Clubs shall access WGS in order to complete the registration process.

(B) (i) Contract player 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, signing a registration form for, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any player aged ten (10) and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

(ii) A Player registered with a Premier League or EFL Academy under the Elite Player Performance Plan contained within Youth Development Rules will not be permitted to play in this Competition, except for those in the under 11 age-group

and below where consent has been given by the relevant Premier League or EFL Academy (such consent can be withdrawn at any time). Trial players are not considered to be registered with a Premier League or EFL Academy for these purposes and therefore the prohibition on playing in the Competition does not apply to them. The relevant Premier League/EFL Academy remains responsible for managing the frequency of the player's playing time. Details of the Youth Development Rules are published on The FA website. A Player registered with an FA Emerging Talent Centre or an FA Professional Game Academy may play in this Competition subject to the FA Girls' Emerging Talent Centre Operating Criteria and Professional Game Academy Youth Development Rules.

- (iii) Each Team shall have the following number of Players registered seven 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 shall result in a fine (£100.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (C) (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. For the purposes of this Rule 18(C), provisions relating to playing in specified age groups shall include participating in training as well as playing in matches. Children shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match between sides of more than the stated number of players, according to their age group:

Age on 31 August of the 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	5v5	30 x 20	27.45 x	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	3
	Under 8		30 x 20	27.45 x	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	
7	Under 8	5v5	30 x 20	27.45 x	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	3
	Under 9		7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	
8	Under 9	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
	Under 10		50 x 30	45.75 x	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	
9	Under 10	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
	Under 11		9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x	
10	Under 11	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x	16 x 7	4
	Under 12		70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x	16 x 7	
11	Under 12	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x	16 x 7	4
	Under 13		11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	
12	Under 13	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	4
	Under 14		90 x 50	82.3 x	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	
13	Under 14	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	4
	Under 15		11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	
14	Under 15	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
	Under 16		11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	
15	Under 16	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
	Under 17		100 x 50	91.44 x	130 x 100	118.87 x	24 x 8	
	Under 18		100 x 50	91.44 x	130 x 100	118.87 x	24 x 8	
16	Under 17	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x	130 x 100	118.87 x	24 x 8	5
	Under 18		100 x 50	91.44 x	130 x 100	118.87 x	24 x 8	
	Open Age		100 x 50	91.44 x	130 x 100	118.87 x	24 x 8	

(D) A fee (£0.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff shall be paid by each Team registered.

(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 (1) 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 (1) 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 (1) Club provided that:-

(a) The Team(s) 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).

(E) 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, or where the Competition adopts Rule 18.P.
- (iii) Submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through the Player Registration System for registration that the Player had willfully 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 Rule 18(G)(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 (not exceeding £100.00) 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 also 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. 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 shall be considered to be under a probationary period of twelve (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 shall in any event be subject to an appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or the FA. All decisions shall 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 one-hundred and twelve (112) days' suspension, or ten (10) matches in match-based discipline, in any Competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of two (2) years or less from the date of the first offence.)

(H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C when a Club wishes to register a

player who is already registered with another club it shall submit a transfer form (in a format as determined by the Competition) to the Competition accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fees Tariff. Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the club for which the player is registered. Should this club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the player concerned within 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 three (3) days after receipt of such transfer.

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

- (I) A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 31st March except by special permission of the Management Committee.
- (J) A Club shall keep a list of the Players it registers and a record of the games in which they have played and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.

In the event a Club has more than one Team in an age group, each Team shall be clearly identifiable but not designated 'A' or 'B' or 1st or 2nd. In such cases, Players shall be registered for one (1) Team only.

- (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 at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one (1) 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 shall 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 match (as specified in Rule 22(A)) unless the Player has played two (2) league games for that Team in this Competition in the current Playing Season.
- (M) This rule is not adopted by the competition as it's only an Under 18 Competition.
- (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.

(a) (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.

- (b) (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:
- (c) (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; or
- (d) (b) Levy penalty points against the Club in default; and/or
- (e) (c) Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).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 the activities of schools 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 their head teacher (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) If a Club wishes to cancel a Player's registration within the Competition, it must make a request via The FA's electronic player registration system giving the reasons for the request. The Competition may either approve or decline the request.

If a Player's registration is cancelled, he/she will not be eligible to play in the Competition for a period of zero (0) days from the date of cancellation.

CLUB COLOURS

- 19. (A)** Every Club shall register the colour of its Shirts and Shorts with the Secretary by 15th May who shall decide as to their suitability.

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

Goalkeepers shall wear colours which distinguish them from 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 shall play (including the colours of the goalkeeper jersey) at least five (5) days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the Referee, two (2) 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 (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Shirts shall be uniquely numbered.

PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY

TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES

- 20.** 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 The Mini-Soccer and Youth Futsal Handbook, or, for 9v9 football, The FA's Guide to 9v9 Football.
- Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their Grounds and Pitches 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 and to order the Club concerned to play its Competition Matches on another ground.

Artificial 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 - <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch-register>. 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

Overhead netting is allowed for 5v5 and 7v7 mini soccer if the overhead netting height is at a minimum of 6m.

No overhead netting is allowed for 9v9 and 11v11 affiliated matches. Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are ideally removed for affiliated matches but if they cannot be removed then discretion is given to the match official to restart the match in accordance with the laws of the game.

Clubs shall have the right to charge admission to all their League matches and shall keep all its gate receipts therefrom. All matches shall be played on

enclosed grounds with suitable floodlights. The average lux rating of the lights shall be a minimum of one-hundred (100). Clubs shall take the necessary precautions to keep their grounds in playable condition.

All grounds of applying Clubs shall be of Isthmian League or Southern League standard or of an equivalent standard acceptable to the Management Committee.

All other Competition Matches shall have duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than sixty (60) minutes) is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves. Two matches involving the same two Teams can be played on the same day providing the total playing time is not more than 120 minutes..

The times of kick-off shall be fixed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two (2) competing Clubs prior to the scheduled date of the match with written notification given to the Fixture Secretary at least five (5) days prior.

Any Club failing to kick-off at the appointed time shall incur a fine (£20.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff or otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee determine.

Referees shall order matches to commence at the appointed time and shall report all late starts to the Registration Secretary.

The Home Team shall provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two (2) footballs fit for play and the Referee shall make a report to the Secretary if the footballs are unsuitable. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Both competing Clubs shall submit completed Team Sheets to the Referee in his dressing room at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time. Player's full names (IN BLOCK LETTERS) shall correspond with the numbers worn by the players. Failure to comply shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (B) Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches of a member club shall be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches shall be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a Competition Match with the consent of the Fixtures Secretary.

The dates of all matches shall be fixed by the Fixtures Secretary and may only be postponed for a FA Youth Cup game of a member club or if more than three (3) or more players are selected to play in a League or County FA Representative fixture less than two (2) days prior to or following a League game. A match may also be postponed if the Home Club's Senior Management feel that the playing of any fixture would prejudice the playing of a Senior Club's fixture.

In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs shall be given by the Competition five (5) clear days' notice of the Competition Match (unless otherwise mutually

agreed). Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (C) An Officer of the Home Club shall give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least seven (7) clear days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. If not so provided, the Away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (not exceeding £50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff. The visiting Club must include in its acknowledgement the team colours, including the colour of the goalkeeper's jersey, it will be wearing
- (D) The minimum number of Players that shall constitute a Team for a Competition Match is seven (7) Players. In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than eleven (11) Players they may be fined (£5.00) for each missing Player 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 (not exceeding £100.00) 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

(ii) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed for any reason shall, without delay, give notice to the Fixtures Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials.

When a match is postponed for ANY reason other than an unplayable pitch, both Clubs shall complete and forward to the Fixture Secretary a "Postponement of Match Form" within forty-eight (48) hours of the match postponement.

Failure to comply shall result in a fine (£20.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

- (iii) In the event of a Competition Match not being played or abandoned, owing to causes which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date determined by the Fixture Secretary.

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 the abandonment to stand.

(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 (1) 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 shall 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 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(M)(i) above. Where both Teams were under suspension the match shall 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 five (5) substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from five (5) players who shall be named on the Team Sheet.

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

The Referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than thirty (30) minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named shall not take part in that Competition Match.

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

- (G) The half time interval shall be of ten (10) minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the Match Officials.
- (H) The Teams 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 Teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) The Home Club is responsible for providing refreshments for both competing Teams and the match officials, at half time and full time. After the match a room or area, whether separate or part of the Clubhouse, is to be made available for the players, club officials and match officials, where food shall be provided without cost to the visiting Club or match officials. Food means a minimum of sandwiches and/or rolls.

Any visiting Club not wishing to accept the Home Club's hospitality shall give their hosts at least two (2) days notice. Failure to comply the Club shall be liable to a fine (not exceeding £50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

The Management Committee can authorise the suspension of all or part of this rule.

The fixture list shall be drawn up by the Fixtures Secretary. Should a team

require a postponement or a 'closed' week, then this request must be made in writing or by e-mail to the Fixtures Secretary at least 30 days before the date of the match in question (except in unforeseen circumstances). A maximum of two such requests per team may be made in any one season (except in unforeseen circumstances) – this request will then either be 'accepted' or 'rejected' by the Management Committee.

REPORTING RESULTS

21. (A) The Registration Secretary shall receive within two (2) days of the date played, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. This shall include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) and also the Referee markings required by Rule 13, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to do so shall incur a fine (£25.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (B) Both Club shall SMS text their result to the website. Text shall be received by 10.30pm (22.30hrs) or shall be deemed late. Any late result shall be texted to the Fixture Secretary. Failure to comply shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Results which are not under the jurisdiction of this Competition to be texted in the same way.
- (C) 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 shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

22. (A) In Competitions where points are awarded, Team rankings within the Competition shall be decided by points with three (3) points to be awarded for a win and one (1) 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 shall not be played for double points.
- In the event of two (2) or more Teams being equal on points Team rankings shall be decided in any one or more of the following ways: -
- (i) Goal difference or if then still equal
 - (ii) Goals scored.
- (B) This Rule does not apply to this Competition.
- (C) This Rule does not apply to this Competition.
- (D) In the event of a Team not completing seventy-five (75%) of its fixtures for the season, all points and goals obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Team shall be expunged from the Competition League Tables. For the purposes of this Rule 22(C) a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee. Where such a Team has completed seventy-five (75%) or more of its fixtures the points for any unplayed game shall be awarded to the defaulting Clubs opponents.

MATCH OFFICIALS

23. (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 Association(s).

- (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 sixteen (16) shall not participate either as a Referee or Assistant Referee in any open age Competition and individuals under the age of fourteen (14) shall not participate either as a Referee or Assistant Referee in any Competition. Referees between the ages of fourteen (14) and sixteen (16) are only eligible to officiate in Competitions where the players' age band is at least one (1) year younger than the age of the Referee, for example:- a fifteen (15) year old Referee may only officiate in Competitions where the age banding is fourteen (14) or younger.

- (C) This Rule does not apply to this Competition.

- (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 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 shall be accepted.

- (E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Association, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid their fees inclusive of expenses in accordance with the Fees Tariff.

Referee: £50.00

Assistant Referee: £45.00

Match Officials shall be paid their fees by the Home Club in cash OR BY BANK TRANSFER" to be advised to the match officials two days before the game. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (F) In the event of a Competition Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to **half fee**. Where a Competition Match is not played owing to one (1) 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 shall result in a fine (£50.00) 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 Association with which he or she is registered.
- (H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the Referee for each Competition Match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined

(£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

- (I) Any Club marking a Referee sixty (60) marks or lower shall, in writing, to the Registration Secretary, within seven (7) days of the Competition Match, give their reasons for the mark. Failure to comply shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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 and the time of kick-off to the Registration Secretary within two (2) days of the match.
- (K) Match Officials shall be supplied, each Playing Season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.
- (L) This Rule has not been adopted by this Competition.

BRIAN HITCHINGS CHALLENGE CUP

NAME OF THE COMPETITION

- 1. The Competition shall be called "The Brian Hitchings Challenge Cup" and be restricted to member Clubs of The Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League.

LEAGUE RULES TO APPLY

- 2. Except as specifically provided for in these Rules the Rules of The Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League shall apply to this Competition.

BASIS OF THE COMPETITION

- 3. The basis of the Competition shall be determined by the Council of The Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League. In any event the Competition shall be organized on a straight knockout basis or on two (2) or more separate groups the composition of which shall be determined by the Council and the conditions of play shall be determined by the Management Committee.

DURATION OF MATCHES

- 4. Each match shall be forty-five (45) minutes each way, however, if the Competition be on a straight knockout and the Teams are level at the end of ninety (90) minutes for any tie up to and including the Semi-Finals the matches shall then be decided by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with International Board Procedures.

ENTRANCE FEES

- 5. The Entrance Fee to the Competition shall be determined by the Management Committee.

FINAL TIE

- 6. The basis upon which the Final Tie shall be played and the ground on which it is to take place shall be decided by the Council. Should the tie end in a draw at the end of ninety (90) minutes the tie shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with International Board Procedures. Both Clubs appearing in the Final Tie shall submit two (2) suitable match balls to the Referee at least thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled kick-off time.

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

7. No players shall take part in the Competition at either Semi-Final or Final stages or after April 1st in any one (1) season unless he has played at least two (2) matches under the jurisdiction of the Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League except with the permission of the Management Committee. If the Competition is played on a group basis League Rule 18(E) shall apply, except for the final match in the group. No player can take part during the current season in the Competition if he has already played in the Competition for another Club.

UNREGISTERED PLAYERS

8. Any Team playing an unregistered or ineligible player or players shall forfeit the match and be liable to a fine (not exceeding £50.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

REFEREES

9. Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to charge fees as detailed in League Rule 23. In the Final Tie Match Officials shall receive the same fee (paid by the Competition) in addition to a memento.

LEAGUE SHIELD

NAME OF THE COMPETITION

1. The Competition shall be called "The League Shield" and be restricted to member Clubs of The Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League.

LEAGUE RULES TO APPLY

2. Except as specifically provided for in these Rules the Rules of The Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League shall apply to this Competition.

BASIS OF THE COMPETITION

3. The basis of the Competition shall be determined by the Council of The Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League. In any event the Competition shall be organized on a straight knockout basis or on two (2) or more separate groups the composition of which shall be determined by the Council and the conditions of play shall be determined by the Management Committee.

DURATION OF MATCHES

4. Each match shall be forty-five (45) minutes each way, however, if the Competition be on a straight knockout and the Teams are level at the end of ninety (90) minutes for any tie up to and including the Semi-Finals the matches shall then be decided by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with International Board Procedures.

ENTRANCE FEES

5. The Entrance Fee to the Competition shall be determined by the Management Committee.

FINAL TIE

6. The basis upon which the Final Tie shall be played and the ground on which it is to take place shall be decided by the Council. Should the tie end in a draw at the end of ninety (90) minutes the tie shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with International Board Procedures. Both Clubs appearing in the Final Tie shall submit two (2) suitable match balls to the Referee at least thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled kick-off time.

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

7. No players shall take part in the Competition at either Semi-Final or Final stages or after April 1st in anyone (1) season unless he has played at least two (2)

matches under the jurisdiction of the Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League except with the permission of the Management Committee. If the Competition is played on a group basis League Rule 18(E) shall apply, except for the final match in the group. No player can take part during the current season in the Competition if he has already played in the Competition for another Club.

UNREGISTERED PLAYERS

8. Any Team playing an unregistered or ineligible player or players shall forfeit the match and be liable to a fine (not exceeding £50.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

REFEREES

9. Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to charge fees as detailed in League Rule 23. In the Final Tie Match Officials shall receive the same fee (paid by the Competition) in addition to a memento.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

1. Any act, statement, conduct or other matter which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children, shall constitute behaviour which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.
2. In these Regulations the expression "Offence" shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes The Association to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.

3. Upon receipt by The Association of:

- 3.1 notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence; or
- 3.2 notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, Social Services or any other authority relating to an Offence; or
- 3.3 any other information which causes The Association reasonably to

believe

that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then The Association shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and

on

such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

4. In reaching its determination as to whether an order under Regulation 3 should be made The Association shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:

- 4.1 whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm;
- 4.2 whether the matters are of a serious nature;
- 4.3 whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by The Association or any other authority or body to

proceed

unimpeded.

5. The period of an order referred to in 3 above shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge under The Rules of The Association or any Offence is decided or brought to an end.

6. Where an order is imposed on an individual under Regulation 3 above, The Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of The Association against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.

Where a person is convicted or is made the subject of a caution in respect of

an Offence, that shall constitute a breach of the Rules of The Association and The Association shall have the power to order the suspension of the person from all or any specific football activity for such a period (including indefinitely) and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.

8. For the purposes of these Regulations, The Association shall act through its Council or any Committee or Sub-Committee thereof, including the Board.
9. Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or any Club with which he is associated as soon as reasonably practicable.
10. The applicable standard of proof shall be the civil standard, of the balance of probability. The more serious the allegation taking into account the nature of the misconduct alleged and the context of the case the greater the burden of evidence required to find the matter proved. Save that for charges pursuant to The Football Association's Child Protection Policy, where the welfare and protection of children shall be paramount and the test shall be whether more likely than not.

FINES TARIFF - Season 2023-2024

Rule	Offence	Charge
2 (G)	Failure to Affiliate	£20.00
2 (I)	Failure to apply with FA initiatives	£20.00
2 (K)	Unauthorised entry of teams into competitions	£20.00
3	Failure to seek permission to change Club name	£20.00
4 (C)	Failure to pay a deposit	£20.00
4 (E)	Failure to provide affiliation number/Details form	£20.00
5 (C)	Failure to attend meeting	£50.00
5 (C)	Failure to attend two consecutive meetings – maximum fine	£100.00
5 (E)	Communications conducted by persons other than the nominated officers	£20.00
6 (H)	Failure to comply with an instruction of the management committee	£50.00
6 (I)	Failure to pay a fines within 14 days	£50.00
8 (H)	Failure to be represented at Annual General Meeting	£50.00
9	Failure to be represented at a SGM	£50.00
10	Failure to submit the required written agreement or to notify change to signatories	£20.00
11 (A)	Failure to resign from the Competition 60 days before the AGM – maximum fine	£100.00
11 (B)	Failure to start or complete fixtures for the playing season – maximum fine	£100.00
13 (A)	Failure to have cup or trophy engraved	£10.00
13 (A)	Failure to return cup or trophy by due date	£10.00
16 (A)	Failure to have Public Liability Insurance cover	£50.00
16 (B)	Failure to have valid Accident cover for registered players	£50.00
18 (A)	Failure to correctly register a player	£25.00
18 (A)	Failure to produce birth certificate if requested	£50.00
18 (B) (iii)	Failure to have the required number of players registered 7 days prior to start of season – maximum fine	£100.00
18 (F)	Signing or playing for multiple clubs, or inaccurate completion of a registration form	£25.00
18 (G) (ii)	Registration irregularities – maximum fine	£100.00
18 (N) (i)	Playing an ineligible player	£50.00
18 (O) (i)	Failure to give priority to school activities	£50.00
19 (A)	Delaying kick-off change of colours	£10.00
20 (A)	Failure to kick-off at appointed time	£20.00
20 (A)	Failure to provide net, corner posts, footballs	£20.00
20 (A)	Failure to submit correct Team Sheets	£20.00
20 (B)	Failure to notify postponement of original or reversed fixture	£20.00
20 (C)	Failure to provide details of a fixture	£50.00
20 (D)	Failure to have minimum number of players that shall constitute a team	£5.00 per player
20 (E) (i)	Failure to play fixture – maximum fine	£100.00
20 (E) (ii)	Failure to provide match postponement form within 48 hours	£20.00

20 (H)	No captains armband	£10.00
20 (I)	Home club failing to provide refreshments	£50.00
20 (I)	Not accepting Home Clubs hospitality or giving at least two (2) days notice	£50.00
21 (A)	Failure to send Result Sheet within time scale	£25.00
21 (B)	Failure by Home Club to text result of match by 22.30 hours	£10.00
21 (C)	Result sheet to be signed by a responsible member of the club	£10.00
23 (E)	Failure to pay Officials their fee after the match	£50.00
23 (F)	Failure to pay match officials where a match is not played	£50.00
23 (H)	Failure to put Referee mark on result sheet	£10.00
23 (I)	Referee mark lower than 60 reasons to be in writing	£10.00
Cup Rule 8	Playing an ineligible player	£50.00

Fees Season 2023-2024

Rule	Subject Matter	
4 (A)	Entry Fee	£20.00
4 (B)	Annual Subscription	£125.00
4 (C)	Deposit	£100.00
7 (C)	Protest Deposit to Management Committee	£20.00
7 (D)	Club electing to state a case in person	£20.00
7 (F)	Appeal against a management decision to sanctioning authority	£25.00
18 (H)	Transfer Fee	£10.00
23 (E)	Referee Fee	£50.00
23 (E)	Assistant Referee's Fee	£45.00