

# **LONDON FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION YOUTH COUNTY CUP COMPETITIONS 2023-24**

## **Boys Under 13 to Under 18 Eleven-A-Side**

## **Boys Under 12 Nine-A-Side**

## **Girls Under 13 to Under 18 Eleven-A-Side**

## **Girls Under 12 Nine-A-Side**

### **1. DEFINITIONS**

a. In these Rules:

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

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

“Competition” means the London FA.

“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.

“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 the management committee elected to manage the running of the Competition.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Sanctioning Authority” means the London Football Association Limited.

“Scholarship” means a Scholarship as defined by the FA rules.

“Season” means the period of time stated by The FA

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

“WGS” means the Whole Game System and the procedures for the operation thereof 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.

## GOVERNANCE RULES

### 2. COMPETITION NAME AND CONSTITUTION

- a. The Competition Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the London FA
- b. (i) The Boys Cups known as ‘The London FA Saturday U/12 Cup’, ‘The London FA Saturday U/13 Cup’, ‘The London FA Saturday U/14 Cup’, ‘The London FA Saturday U/15 Cup’, ‘The London FA Saturday U/16 Cup’, ‘The London FA Saturday U/17 Cup’, ‘The London FA Saturday U/18 Cup’, ‘The London FA Sunday U/12 Cup’, ‘The London FA Sunday U/13 Cup’, ‘The London FA Sunday U/14 Cup’, ‘The London FA Sunday U/15 Cup’, ‘The London FA Sunday U/16 Cup’, ‘The London FA Sunday U/17 Cup’, ‘The London FA Sunday U/18 Cup’.  
  
(ii) The Girls Cups known as ‘The London FA U/12 Girls Cup’, ‘The London FA U/14 Girls Cup’, ‘The London FA U/16 Girls Cup’, ‘The London FA U/18 Girls Cup’.
- c. Any team entering the London FA Youth Cups and based outside the M25 Boundary must play their home ties within the M25 boundary.
- 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 the London FA and their names and particulars shall be returned by the appointed time.
- h. This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning committee
- i. Inclusivity and Non-discrimination
  - i. The Competition and each 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 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.
- j. 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.

- k. All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The FA from time to time.
- l. 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.

### **3. CUPS AND CLUB NAMES**

- a. Boys Saturday/Midweek Club Competitions — Under 12 to Under 18 Age Groups

Participation shall be open **only** to Saturday and Midweek teams from all Clubs which are affiliated to the London Football Association.. (With the exception of 'Post-16 football'. U17 & U18 Saturday Clubs may be permitted to join the Sunday Competitions unless enough teams apply to enter the Saturday Competitions at U17 & U18.

- b. Boys Sunday Club Competitions — Under 12 to Under 18 Age Groups

Participation shall be open **only** to Sunday teams from all Clubs which are affiliated to the London Football Association.

- c. Girls Competitions are open to all teams within the appropriate age band.

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.

### **4. ENTRY FEE**

Applications by Clubs for entry to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club must be made in writing to the London FA office before 31<sup>st</sup> July or a date set by the Management committee 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 entry being declined.

A minimum of 8 (eight) teams must apply for entry before any individual competition is adopted. The Management Committee may, with discretion, allow the competition to proceed with fewer than 8 (eight) teams.

### **5. MANAGEMENT**

- a. The Management Committee shall be appointed by the London FA Board.
- b. The Management Committee shall meet as and when required, save that no more than three calendar months shall pass between each meeting.
- c. 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 London FA Competitions Officer 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 London FA Competitions Officer who will report all communications to the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff

## **6. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT**

- a. The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The FA or London FA.
- b. 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 also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).
- c. 50% of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof. In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman of the Management Committee shall have a second or casting vote.
- d. The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules 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.

The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse 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.

- e. With the exception of Rules 6(q), 20(y) for all alleged breaches of a Rule the Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given 7 days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a Club may:
  - i. Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
  - ii. Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
  - iii. Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
  - iv. Deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case at a hearing before the Management Committee.
- f. 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.
- g. 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.
- h. 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).
- i. With the exception of Teams playing at Step 7 of the National League System, the maximum

fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

- j. The maximum fine permitted for a breach of a Rule by a Team playing at Step 7 or above of the National League System is £500.
- k. No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.
- l. All breaches of the Laws of the Game, or the Rules and Regulations of The FA shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by the appropriate Association.
- m. All decisions of the Management Committee are Final and Binding and are not subject to appeal save for a decision that a club is removed from the competition.
- n. Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 3 days.
- o. The London FA Board, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill, any vacancies that may occur.
- p. 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.
- q. Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision. Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in being withdrawn from the competition.
- r. 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 London FA.
- s. The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.
- t. The Management Committee shall have the power to disqualify any competing Club or of any competing Club(s) which it determines to have breached the Rules of the Association or the Competition Rules (and any rules or regulations issued pursuant to the Competition.
- u. If a Club is removed from the League in which it is playing once it has been accepted into a competition the Management Committee shall have the right to remove the Club from the competition.
- v. The committee shall not decide until the findings of the disciplinary hearings are known.
- w. Decisions of the Management committee are final and binding

## **7 PROTESTS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS**

- a. All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the

Management Committee. 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 Competition 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 London FA Competitions Officer within Two (2) days (excluding Sundays and Bank Holidays) 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 be shared by the parties. The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.
- 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 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
  - ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should 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 to be removed from the competition must be lodged with the London FA Chief Executive within 7 days of the posting of the written notification of the decision, accompanied by a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff), which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld or withdrawn. The Chief Executive will set up a Board of Appeal of Three (3) Council members and secretary to hear the case. No member of the Cups committee may sit. A copy of the appeal must also be sent to the Competitions Officer.
- g. The grounds of appeal available to the club shall be that the Management Committee whose decision is appealed against.
  - i. Failed to give the club a fair hearing, and/or
  - ii. Misinterpreted or failed to comply with the rules and/or regulations of the FA relevant to its decision, and/or
  - iii. Came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come, and/or
  - iv. Imposed a penalty, award, order or sanction that was excessive.
- h. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the London FA. In such respect the London FA may (but is not obliged to):
  - a. invite submissions by the parties involved.
  - b. convene a hearing to hear the appeal.
  - c. permit new evidence; or
  - d. impose deadlines as are appropriate.
- i. Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the

Management Committee.

- j. All protests, claims or complaints relating to these Rules arising from a Player's contract shall be heard and determined by the Management Committee, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee. The Clubs or Players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining must send a copy of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld, and the party not succeeding may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Management Committee.
- k. All such protests, claims, complaints and appeals must be received in writing by the Secretary within three (3) days (not including Sunday) of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.

## **8. ORGANISATION of the COMPETITIONS**

- a. The Clubs competing in each round of the competition shall be drawn in couples. This shall be continued until the Final of the competition. Byes may be applicable in some rounds. The first-drawn Club couple shall have the choice of ground unless the Management Committee shall decide otherwise. After each draw is made, notice shall be given to each club of the name of its opponent club which it is drawn and the date and hour at which (or, in the case of the Senior Cup competition, by which) the tie is to be played.
- b. The Cup Draws shall be administered by the Competitions Officer using the FA Full-Time System. The draws, once completed must be sent to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the Competitions Committee for verification. Once verified, the draws may be published and competing teams notified.
- c. The first named Club in each pairing shown on the Draw Sheet shall be designated the Home Club and shall normally have choice of ground. If the Home Club **must** cancel due to pitch conditions, and their opposition has a playable pitch, then they may switch the game. This must be agreed and confirmed prior to the scheduling of the match, and put in writing to the Competitions Officer.
- d. Costs for the hire of the pitch will be shared between both Clubs.
- e. Unless otherwise instructed by the Competitions Committee, a postponed match shall be rescheduled for the following week.
- f. After any game has been postponed twice due to weather or pitch conditions, the tie may be transferred to either the opposition ground or a neutral venue.
- g. The Final Tie shall take place on a neutral ground as determined by the Competitions Committee.
- h. The teams and the appointed match officials must be present at the ground at least 15 minutes (60 minutes for final ties) prior to the advertised scheduled time of kick off. Clubs will be fined for non-compliance in line with fines tariff.
- i. Teams participating in a Final Tie will be able to purchase tickets in advance and these tickets will be exchanged on the gate for Cup Final programmes. Spectators without preallocated tickets will be charged an entrance fee (to which may include a programme) at the gate. Refusal to pay will result in entry being declined.
- j. Should for any reason beyond the control of the London FA, the playing season be interrupted, the Cup Committee shall have the power to take whatever emergency action necessary, inline with UK Government and FA guidelines. That action includes, but is not limited to, the suspension of any competitions, a temporary relaxation of selected competition rules and the cancellation of one or more competitions.

## **9. COMMUNICATIONS**

All communications required by any of the Rules shall be addressed as required by the appropriate Rule or in default of any such requirement to the Secretary of the Management Committee.

## **10 AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED**

Each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition.

"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 Cup Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if accepted conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7."

The agreement shall be signed by:

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

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

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

## **11. WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB**

- a. Any Club withdrawing from a County Cup Competition must notify the Competitions Officer by email immediately.
- 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(q), 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.
- d. If the notice of withdrawal is received by the Competitions Officer less than seven (7) days or fewer before the date of the first their next scheduled round, the withdrawing Club shall be liable to a fine inline with fines tariff and be liable for any expenses incurred by the Association, referee and the opposing Club. Clubs in default may be liable for any costs and expenses incurred. Claims must be submitted within 7 days of the match date to the London FA Cups & Competitions officer.
- e. Any Club that withdraws a Team during the season may have their application for entry into any County Cup Competition rejected for the following season.

## **12. EXCLUSION OF CLUBS, TEAMS. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS,**



- a. Any reports of serious misbehaviour, abandoned matches or late starts beyond the stipulated time, the Management Committee shall consider these reports and shall disqualify, fine or decide to take no action against the club(s) allegedly responsible.
- b. The Committee shall have the power to disqualify any competing Club or a player of any competing Club(s) which it determines to have breached the Rules of the Association or the Competition Rules (and any rules or regulations issued pursuant to the Competition Rules).
- 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 the Management Committee may decide.

### **13. CUP, 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 Officer on or before 31<sup>st</sup> December. 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 Association permit.
- c. The winning club shall be responsible, for their cost for the neat engraving of the Club name and season of award on the cup. Failure to do so will result in the club being charged with the costs incurred for engraving and a fine inline with fines tariff.

### **14. ALTERATION TO RULES**

Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning committee, may be made from time to time. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season except in exceptional circumstances approved by the Sanctioning Authority and The FA.

### **16. INSURANCE**

- a. All Clubs must have valid public liability insurance cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.
- b. All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players’ personal accident insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition Match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the Football Association. The minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Football Association.
- c. Failure to comply with these rules will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## **MATCH RELATED RULES**

## 18. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

- a. Contract players are NOT permitted in these Competitions.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.
- d. Players can only play in one age group in line with the FA Regulations of 2-year age difference,
- e. At each match, all players must be in possession of an identity card/ or Whole Game System Registration Print Outs.
- f. **Note: Please note that from the 2021/22 season all players must be registered through WGS and identity cards will NOT be acceptable.**  
**The player 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.**
- g. Players must be in possession of their identity cards/ Whole Game System Registration Print Outs with properly affixed photographs at the match and these must be made available for inspection by the opposing team.
- h. Before kick-off, each Team Manager must provide their Match Sheet to the opposing Team Manager with the printed names and registration numbers of each player (including substitutes) shown clearly on the sheet. Each Team Manager shall then supervise the signing of the Match Sheet by their opponent's players and shall check these full signatures to ensure that they correspond with the player's identity card/ Whole Game System Registration Print Outs.
- i. A game shall not commence without the production of identity cards or Whole Game System Registration Print Outs. Players who are not in possession of their identity cards or Whole Game System Registration Print Outs. shall not be permitted to take part in the match and shall be deemed ineligible. Any team that does not produce its identity cards or Whole Game System Registration Print Outs. will be disqualified from the competition and required to pay the Official's fees. If the match is played then the Competitions Committee may take further action as appropriate against either or both clubs.
- j. In the case of dispute concerning the signature or identity of any player, the Team Manager raising such dispute shall not have the power to prevent the player in question from participating in the game. The Team Manager must however, inform the opposing Team Manager of his concern and report the matter, together with all relevant facts, to the Cups & Competitions Officer, who must receive such protest, in writing or e-mail, within two days of the match in question.
- k. A player who arrives after the commencement of the match shall be permitted to play but the above Match Sheet and Identity Card or Whole Game System Registration Print Outs procedure must be completed before he/she enters the field of play.
- l. Should any nominated player or substitute sustain an injury after the submission of the 'Official Team Sheet' to the Referee before the kick-off, he may be replaced without fine if he is injured warming up after the exchange of the 'Official Team Sheet' provided the Referee and opponents are informed before the commencement of the match. In such Circumstances

the 'Official Team Sheet' must be updated by the relevant Club to include the replacement player and exclude the injured player prior to the commencement of the match.

- m. No player shall be eligible to take part in a match unless the name appears on the 'Official Team Sheet'.
- n. Any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition Match may have the match awarded to its opponents or ordered it to be replayed
- o. The following clause applies to all Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary education:-

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.

The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday leagues competitions).

- p. The relevant age for each Player is determined by his or her age as at midnight on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season.
- q. The age groups that children are eligible to play in are set out in the table below, along with the permitted football formats for each of those age groups. Children shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match between sides of more than the stated number of players, according to their age group:

Age on 31 August of the 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		
10	Under 11	9v9	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		
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	21 x 7	
12	Under 13	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x	100 x 60	91.44 x	21 x 7	4
	Under 14		90 x 50	82.3 x	100 x 60	91.44 x	21 x 7	
13	Under 14	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x	100 x 60	91.44 x	21 x 7	4
	Under 15		90 x 50	82.3 x	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	
14	Under 15	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
	Under 16		90 x 50	82.3 x	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	
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	118.87 x	24 x 8	
	Under 18		100 x 50	91.44 x	130 x	118.87 x	24 x 8	
16	Under 17	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x	130 x	118.87 x	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	
	Open Age		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	

- r. It shall be a breach of the rules to play for more than one team on a Saturday or a Sunday.
- s. Players shall not be permitted to register with a participating team after 28<sup>th</sup> February of the current season, nor will any player be permitted to play in a semi-final or final tie unless he/she has played in three (3) or more League, League Cup or County Cup games. The three qualifying games must be played before the semi-final tie for a player to be eligible for the final tie or at the discretion of the LFA County Cup London FA Cups & Competitions Committee.
- t. Players who have not attained the age of ten (10) years by midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August of the current season shall not be permitted to participate in 9 a-side competitions of this Association. (see FA Rule C, 4(a) ii)
- u. Players who have not attained the age of eleven (11) years by midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August of the current seasons shall not be permitted to participate in 11 a-side competitions of this Association. (see FA Rule C, 4(a) ii)

- v. A player in the age ranges Under 11 , Under 12, Under 13 and Under 14 shall not be permitted to play in a match where other players are younger or older by 2 years or more than that player. (FA Rule C, 4(a) vi, A)
- w. Up to the age of U 18 boys and girls are permitted to play in mixed football matches.
- x. In the event of a protest being lodged under any part of this rule, the Club must produce all necessary documents, including, if necessary, the original birth certificate or other proof of date of birth of the player(s) being protested against. The Club must also furnish proof of the date when the player first registered with the Club. It shall be the responsibility of the Club protested against to furnish proof that the player(s) in question are properly qualified
- y. Teams that are found to be in default of any aspect of Rule 9 shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £20.00 and may be removed from the competition.
- z. Teams failing to carry out proper Match/ Team Sheet and Identity Card/Sheet procedures shall be liable for a fine of inline with fines tariff.
- aa. A Team proven to have fielded an ineligible player(s) shall be deemed guilty of gross misconduct and shall be liable to a fine inline with fines tariff and shall be removed from the competition.

## 19. CLUB COLOURS

- a. When the colours of the two competing teams are similar, the Home Team must change to an alternative colour. If colours clash in the Final Tie both Teams must change.
- b. Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials.
- c. No Player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.
- d. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick-off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- e. Shirts must **all** be numbered **differently**, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff. **The names of youth players shall not appear on shirts, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.**

## 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 and 9v9 football, the Rules as set down by The FA.
- b. All ties shall be played on dates determined by the Cup Competitions Committee **as decided and notified one month prior to the commencement of the season.** Postponed ties shall take place on the following Saturday or Sunday unless otherwise directed by the Competitions Committee.
- c. 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 Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary.
- d. 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.** **Notwithstanding the usual 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.**

- e. 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.
- f. 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.
- g. The home Club is also responsible for advising Participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements.  
Overhead netting is allowed for 5v5 and 7v7 mini soccer if the overhead netting height is 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 re-start the match in accordance with the rules of the game.
- h. 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.
- i. 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 and of equal halves.

Age Group	Minimum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum duration of play per half (minutes)
Under 12	20	30
Under 13 and Under 14	25	35
Under 15 and Under 16	25	40
Under 17 and Under 18	25	45

- j. In the event of scores being level after the expiry of normal time, the ties shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Laws of the Game. In **Semi-Finals and Finals only**, if the scores are level at the end of normal time, then extra time will be played, and penalties in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Laws of the Game. There will be no replays and any teams refusing to decide a tie on penalties will be liable to expulsion from the competition and a fine not exceeding £20.00.
- k. With the exception of the Final Tie, the arranged kick-off times for matches must be no earlier than 10.00am and not later than 2.00pm for all age groups. During the mid-winter period

November to February Under 15, 16, 17 and 18 teams kick-off no later than 1.30pm to ensure that sufficient time is allowed to complete penalties if required.

- l. If a team wishes to play a match at a later kick-off time, under floodlights, special permission must be sought, in writing, from the Cups Competitions Committee. Permission will only be granted with the agreement of both participating teams.
- m. Referees must order Competition Matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition.
- n. The home Team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- o. Any team unable to fulfil their fixture on the date determined shall forfeit the tie unless written application for postponement is received by the Cups & Competitions Officer at least 28 days prior to the scheduled date. Permission for postponement will only be granted in very exceptional circumstances.
- p. Matches must commence no later than 15 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time unless both teams and match officials agree. Where a team is not ready to commence play 15 minutes after the scheduled kick-off time a fine of inline with fines tariff will be incurred by the offending club and the tie will be awarded to the non-defaulting club. Such claim with supporting evidence must be made in writing or e-mail to the Cups & Competitions Officer within 2 days of the match.
- q. Any Team failing to play without showing good and sufficient cause may be adjudged guilty of misconduct and liable to be dealt with under Rule 6.
- r. The Cups & Competitions Officer shall ensure all necessary documentation is made available via the London FA website to download before the start of the competition.
- s. 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 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 will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- t. The minimum number of Players that will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is as follows:

FORMAT	MINIMUM
7v7	5
9v9	6
11v11	7

- u. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- v. Teams failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have the power to impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff), Award the match 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. Order the 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.
- w. Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where the Match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Competitions Officer, the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials.
- x. In the event of a 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 approved by the Management

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

- y. The Management Committee shall review all 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 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 the match. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Competition Match.
- z. 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 16. Where both Teams were under suspension the Competition Match must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.
- aa. A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any Match.
- bb. A team may use up to 5 from 5 substitute Players. A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace any Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.
- cc. The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitute Players not later than 15 minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match.
- dd. A Player who has 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.
- ee. The half time interval shall be of 10 minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
- ff. A team captain who shall be identified and wear an armband 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.

## **21. REPORTING RESULTS**

- a. The Cups and Competition Officer must receive from both clubs a fully completed result sheet within 3 days of the date of the match being played and signed by an officer of the club. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- b. Both teams shall telephone/SMS/email to notify the result of each Competition Match to the London FA office within 24 hours or as per instructions from the management committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## **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.
- 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 Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any open age competition and individuals under the age of 14 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match. Referees between the ages of 14 and 16 are only eligible to officiate in competitions where the Players' age band is at least one year younger than the age of the referee, for example a 15 year old referee may only officiate in competitions where the age banding is 14 or younger.
- c. Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) being imposed on the defaulting Club. Assistant Referees will be appointed to Semi-Final and Final ties.
- d. The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final, *subject to the determination of the Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, which must be accepted.*
- e. Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee inclusive of travel expenses as follows:

Under 15, 16, 17 and 18	Referee	£45.00
	Assistant Referee	£35.00
Under 13 and 14	Referee	£40.00
	Assistant Referee	£30.00
Under 12	Referee	£35.00
	Assistant Referee	£30.00

- f. Match Officials will be paid their fees by the home Club before 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. In all competitions where only one match official is appointed the away club is responsible for payment. Where three match officials are appointed the Away Club is responsible for the payment of the referee and one assistant referee, the Home Club is responsible for the payment of the other assistant referee. It is the Home Team's responsibility to recover the Away Team's share of the match Officials' fees.
- g. The Cups and Competitions Officer will appoint suitable Match Official(s) up to 21 days before the fixture. Any club who fails to comply with this procedure after being fined may have their fine doubled.
- h. 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 full fee. Where a Competition Match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee and expenses. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- i. 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.
- j. 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 (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

- k. The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Season, shall submit a summary to The FA/County FA. Referees are awarded marks out of 100 by each team.
- l. 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 days of the Competition Match.
- m. Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.
- n. Match Officials shall have undertaken a RESPECT briefing offered by The FA/County FA or the Competition.

#### FINES TARIFF

DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£100.00
FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£30.00
COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£25.00
FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£100.00
FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	DOUBLE THE ORIGINAL FINE UP TO £100.00
FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£100.00
FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£100.00
FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£25.00
FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100.00
FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£40.00
REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£25.00
REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£100.00

FIELDING MORE THAN THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS MATCHES	£100
PROTEST/APPEAL FEE	£25
PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£100.00
FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£50.00
FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS OR SHIRTS CONTAINING A PLAYER'S NAME	£10.00 (per shirt, up to an aggregate maximum of £30)
DELAYING KICK OFF TO DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£30
DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT	£30.00
FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£100.00
FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£50.00
PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£100.00
FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£100.00
NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£10.00
LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£20.00
FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£20.00
FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£25.00
FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£25.00
FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£25.00
FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£25.00