EAST CORNWALL YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

2017-2018

NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

1.

(A) This Competition shall be designated the East Cornwall Youth Football League/Cup and known as the East Cornwall Youth Football League and shall consist of not more than 44Clubs approved by the sanctioning authority.

The Competition will provide football in accordance with the agreed youth formats published under FA Rule C4(A). This Competition will reproduce the relevant FA Rule in its handbook and on its website to ensure clarity and compliance with Rule 8(B).

(B) All such Member Clubs must be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form ‘D’ to the Cornwall County Football Association. The areas covered by the Competition Membership shall be Cornwall and Devon.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Cornwall County Football Association and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions which may not exceed 10 teams, unless Member Clubs in any specific age group (present at a league meeting) vote in favour of raising this number to a maximum of 12.

(C) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

(i) This Competition and each Member Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination

(ii) This Competition and each Member Club does not and must not [by its rules or regulations or] in any manner whatsoever unlawfully discriminate against any person within the meaning and scope of the Equality Act 2010 or any law, enactment, order or regulation relating to discrimination (whether by age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise).

(iii) [This Competition and each Member Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise).]

(iv) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate sanctioning Association for investigation.

(D) Rule not applicable.

(E) As an FA Charter Standard League this Competition requires all its Clubs to have achieved FA Charter Standard League status by 2014 (two years from when Charter Standard League status was awarded to the Competition). The League management committee may expel any club that has failed to achieve Charter Standard status by this date. New Member Clubs have one year to achieve the Charter Standard club award. The League has the right to refuse membership to a Club if it fails to demonstrate commitment to achieving the award.

(F) This Competition and its Clubs shall support the FA’s Respect programme. As such it recognises that everyone in football has a collective responsibility to create a fair, safe and enjoyable environment in which the game can take place. A Respect League values the courtesy and fairness by opposing players, club officials and spectators. The League and its Clubs will seek to play fixtures in a fair, competitive but not antagonistic environment.

(G) Member Clubs shall not enter any of their teams playing in the Competition in any other Competitions (with the exception of FA and County FA. Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee of the Competition.

(H) At the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have the power to decide or adjust the compilation of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 12.

# entry fee, subscription, deposit

2.

(A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional team(s) must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee of £30 per club, which shall be returned in the event of non-election. The application must include a completed ‘New Club / Team’ proforma which must be returned to the League Secretary at least 7 days prior to the AGM. This form is found at Appendix 1.

At the discretion of a majority of the accredited voting members present applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting. The Entry fee shall apply.

By vote of members present at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting the Management Committee of the League may determine to accept late applications to join the league prior to the agreed date for commencement of fixtures.

When Rule 12(B) is applied and a team seeks a transfer or is compulsorily transferred to another division no Entry Fee shall be payable.

(B) **The Annual Subscription shall be £50 per Team playing 11-a-side, £45 per team playing 9-a-side football and £40 per Team playing Mini Soccer payable on or before the 31st July in each year.**

(C) Each Club shall, upon election, pay a deposit of £0 which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.

(D) A club shall not participate in this competition until the Entry Fee, Annual Subscription and Deposit have been paid.

(E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by **1st July** of its Cornwall County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, failing which they shall be fined £5.

Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition. This will include an up-to-date email address for all Officers, Coaches and Managers.

(F) Entry to the League for each team requires that 5 players are registered for 5-a-side Mini Soccer, 7 players are registered for 7-a-side Mini Soccer, 9 players for 9-a-side & 11 players for 11-a-side by 31st July. Failure to do so will be referred to the Management Committee who reserves the right to refuse entry of the team for that season.

(G) All adults in positions of authority within any league club or anyone who has supervision of persons under 18 years old will have received approval from the Football Association to be involved with youth football having completed a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check (previously known as CRB). All clubs are required to have a named Club Welfare Officer who meets the requirements of the FA. It is the responsibility of each League Club to ensure that this requirement is met.

(H) A maximum of **2 teams** for each age group from any single Club will be permitted unless otherwise agreed by the Management Committee.

## OFFICERS

3.

The Officers of the Competition shall be determined by the Annual General Meeting and elected thereat. (N.B. Auditors are not Officers).

Officers of the Competition will be eligible to receive a honorarium. The amount will be set by a Sub-Committee formed by representatives of Member Clubs, and the Chairman and agreed at the AGM. The honorarium will be paid at the end of the season, by cheque, at the AGM. Officers who resign or who are removed from post during the season will be eligible for a pro-rata amount of the full honorarium amount only.

# Management, nomination, election

4.

(A) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers and up to 4 members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The Association from time to time.

(B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination.

All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs, not later than 31st May in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting.

(C) The Management Committee shall meet at least quarterly

On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee.

(D) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.

(E) All communications received from the clubs must be conducted through their nominated Officers.

(F)

(i) A Divisions & Fixtures meeting will be held in August and no later than 14 days prior to the first scheduled fixture, and no sooner than 14 days after the publication of the draft divisions and fixtures. Club Secretaries, Team Managers or their representatives are requested to attend to formally agree the structure of each division and agree the fixtures for the coming year. After this meeting no changes to divisions or fixtures will be entertained unless it is deemed to be detrimental to the running of the league during that season.

(ii) A Pre-Season Meeting will be held in September. All Team Managers and Club Officials from new clubs or teams, or those new to the League must attend this meeting. Any team or club not being represented without satisfactory reason shall be fined £20. The meeting is open to all current member clubs to send any person who wishes to attend to refresh their knowledge of the League Rules, policies and procedures.

Any club, team or individual who persistently infringes league rules in the previous season will be required by the Management Committee to attend this meeting. Any team, club or individual not being represented without satisfactory reason shall be fined £20.

(iii) A representative from each Member Club shall attend League meetings, which will be held on the second Monday of the months of October, December, February and April and shall have the power to vote on matters arising from such meetings. Clubs are permitted one (1) apology per season, provided that apology is received by the League Secretary in advance of the meeting. (Failure to provide an Apology will result in a £10 fine against the Member Club). Further absence will attract a fine of £10 and each subsequent absence will attract a fine which is double the previous, to a maximum of £40 for that season.

## POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

5.

(A) The Management Committee may appoint such 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 Football Association or affiliated Association.

(B) Subject to the permission of the Cornwall County Football Association 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 (See Rule 6(e)).

(C) Each Member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee Meetings and have one vote thereat, but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters 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 vote being equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

(D) The Management Committee shall have the powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules.

With the exception of Rules 5(I), 6(H), 10(A), 11 and 19 for any breaches of Rule a formal written charge must be issued. The respondent shall be given seven days from the date of notice to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to:-

 (i) Accept or deny the charge

 (ii) Submit in writing a case of mitigation, or

 (iii) Put their case before the Management Committee.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of The Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with F.A. Rules by the appropriate Association.

With the exception of Clubs playing at Step 7 of the Football Pyramid and the Women’s Premier League, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Competition rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Competition must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

(E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to the Board of Appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

### Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 14 days

(F) 5 or 50% (rounded up if necessary) whichever is the lowerof the Members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and 3 Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by any sub-committee of the Competition.

(G) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have the power to fill in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.

(H) A Club having failed to comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, or failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or correspondence of the Competition, shall be liable to be fined or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(I) All fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting of the written notification.

Any Club failing to do so will be fined a maximum of £50. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional sum within 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding payments are settled.

(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 in between the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition season.

(L) No participant under the age of 18 can be fined

*(*M)Leagues who organise Mini Soccer for teams playing U7 and U8 football may not, with the exception of Rules 6, 10(A), 11(D), 14 and 19 fine Clubs for breaches of League Rules.

(N) For those leagues defined under Rule 5(M) when a team fails to fulfil either a festival or development fixture and pitch hire costs have been incurred, the Organising Competition will be empowered to order the defaulting club to pay these costs and charge an administration fee of up to £10.

(O) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6.

(A) The Annual General Meeting shall be no later than 20thJuly in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least two thirds or 20 whichever is the lowerMembers are present and entitled to vote: -

1. To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
2. To consider any business arising there from.
3. To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
4. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee).
5. Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
6. Election of Officers, Management Committee and nomination for CFA representative.
7. Appointment of Auditors / Verifiers
8. Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
9. Fix the date for the commencement and conclusion of playing season, and kick off times as applicable to the competition
10. Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.

(B) A copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen days prior to the meeting, and to the Cornwall County Football Association.

(C) A signed copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Cornwall County Football Association within fourteen days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.

(D) Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Fourteen days’ notice shall be given of any Meeting.

(E) Clubs who have withdrawn their Membership of the Competition during the season being concluded or who are not continuing Membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 17.

(F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least half 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 Full Member Club.

(H) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £25

(I) Officers and Management Committee Members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting.

## AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

7.

The Chairman and the Secretary of each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the Application for Membership for the coming season, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.

“We, A,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman) and

B,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Secretary) of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Football Club have been provided with a copy of the Rules and regulations of the East Cornwall youth Football League/Cup 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 ManagementCommittee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

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

## QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

8.

(A)(i) Contract players, as defined in the Football Association rules, are not permitted in this competitionwith the exception of those Players who are registered under Contract with the same Club who have a team operating at higher level at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System.

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

(ii) No player registered with a FA Premier League or Football League Academy under the Elite Player Performance Plan will be permitted to play in this competition. A Player registered with a Centre of Excellence may only play in this Competition subject to the Regulations of the Programme for Excellence. A Player registered with a FA Girls’ Regional Talent Club may play in this Competition subject to the FA Programme for Excellence (Female) Regulations

(iii) While serving in any branch of Her Majesty’s Regular Forces, a player must first obtain the consent of his Association Secretary before signing a registration form to play for a Club.

(B) A registered youth playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has been registered with the Registrations Secretary and appears on the official laminated Team Sheet which must be received by the Club prior to playing. The club/team must have on file any known serious medical conditions of the player and emergency contact details of the players parents or guardians. These details must be available at matches and training events the player attends within the management of the Club or Competition.

Players are registered through the official League website. A recent passport style photograph of the player seeking registration should be uploaded. A new photograph is required when:

* A player registers for the first time, or
* When moving up a game format e.g. from 5-a-side to 7-a-side, from 7-a-side to 9-a-side and from 9-a-side to 11-a-side.
* If their appearance significantly alters causing difficulty in recognition

If a player’s age is required for registration purposes, a Competition must accept an original birth certificate or a photocopy. In cases where a birth certificate is not available, the League must accept a photocopy of the player’s passport or other official document issued by a Government Agency attesting to the player’s date of birth. Registration will not be granted until proof of the player's date of birth has been sent to the Registration Secretary

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **FORMAT** | **MINIMUM NUMBER** |
|  |  |
| 5v5 | 5 |
|  |  |
| 7v7 | 7 |
|  |  |
| 9v9 | 9 |
|  |  |
| 11v11 | 11 |
|  |  |

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

The relevant age for each player is determined by his or her age as at midnight on 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.

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** | **Eligible Age** | **Maximum** | **Minimum Pitch** | **Maximum Pitch** | **Recommended** | **Ball** |  |
| **August of** | **Permitted** |  | **Sizes** |  | **Sizes** | **Goal Sizes in** | **Size** |  |
| **the relevant** |  | **Format** |  |  |  |  |  |  | **feet** |  |  |
|  | **Yards** |  | **Metres** | **Yards** |  | **Metres** |  |  |
| **Playing** | **Groups** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Season** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 5v5 | 30x20 |  | 27.45 x | 40x30 |  | 36.3 x | 12x6 | 3 |  |
|  | Under 7 |  |  |  | 18.3 |  |  | 27.45 |  |  |  |
| 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 30x20 |  | 27.45 x | 40x30 |  | 36.3 x | 12x6 | 3 |  |
|  | Under 8 |  |  |  | 18.3 |  |  | 27.45 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 5v5 | 30x20 |  | 27.45 x | 40x30 |  | 36.3 x | 12x6 | 3 |  |
|  | Under 8 |  |  |  | 18.3 |  |  | 27.45 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 7v7 | 50x30 |  | 45.75 x | 60x40 |  | 54.9 x | 12x6 | 3 |  |
| 7 | Under 9 |  |  |  | 27.45 |  |  | 36.6 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 7v7 | 50x30 |  | 45.75 x | 60x40 |  | 54.9 x | 12x6 | 3 |  |
|  | Under 9 |  |  |  | 27.45 |  |  | 36.6 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 50x30 |  | 45.75 x | 60x40 |  | 54.9 x | 12x6 | 4 |  |
| 8 | Under 10 |  |  |  | 27.45 |  |  | 36.6 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 7v7 | 50x30 |  | 45.75 x | 60x40 |  | 54.9 x | 12x6 | 4 |  |
|  | Under 10 |  |  |  | 27.45 |  |  | 36.6 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 9v9 | 70x40 |  | 64 x 36.6 | 80x50 |  | 73.15 x | 16x7 | 4 |  |
| 9 | Under 11 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 45.75 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 9v9 | 70x40 |  | 64 x 36.6 | 80x50 |  | 73.15 x | 16x7 | 4 |  |
|  | Under 11 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 45.75 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 70x40 |  | 64 x 36.6 | 80x50 |  | 73.15 x | 16x7 | 4 |  |
| 10 | Under 12 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 45.75 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 9v9 | 70x40 | 64 x 36.6 | 80x50 | 73.15 x | 16x7 | 4 |
|  | Under 12 |  |  |  |  | 45.75 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 11v11 | 90x50 | 82.3x45. | 100x60 | 91.44 x | 21x7 | 4 |
| 11 | Under 13 |  |  | 75 |  | 54.9 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 11v11 | 90x50 | 82.3 x | 100x60 | 91.44 x | 21x7 | 4 |
|  | Under 13 |  |  | 45.75 |  | 54.9 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 90x50 | 82.3 x | 100x60 | 91.44 x | 21x7 | 4 |
| 12 | Under 14 |  |  | 45.75 |  | 54.9 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 11v11 | 90x50 | 82.3 x | 100x60 | 91.44 x | 21x7 | 4 |
|  | Under 14 |  |  | 45.75 |  | 54.9 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 90x50 | 82.3 x | 110x70 | 100.58 x | 24x8 | 5 |
| 13 | Under 15 |  |  | 45.75 |  | 64 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 11v11 | 90x50 | 82.3 x | 110x70 | 100.58 x | 24x8 | 5 |
|  | Under 15 |  |  | 45.75 |  | 64 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 90x50 | 82.3 x | 110x70 | 100.58 x | 24x8 | 5 |
| 14 | Under 16 |  |  | 45.75 |  | 64 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 11v11 | 90x50 | 82.3 x | 110x70 | 100.58 x | 24x8 | 5 |
|  | Under 16 |  |  | 45.75 |  | 64 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 100x50 | 91.44 x | 130x100 | 118.87 x | 24x8 | 5 |
|  | Under 17 |  |  | 45.75 |  | 91.44 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 100x50 | 91.44 x | 130x100 | 118.87 x | 24x8 | 5 |
| 15 | Under 18 |  |  | 45.75 |  | 91.44 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 11v11 | 100x50 | 91.44 x | 130x100 | 118.87 x | 24x8 | 5 |
|  | Under 17 |  |  | 45.75 |  | 91.44 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 100x50 | 91.44 x | 130x100 | 118.87 x | 24x8 | 5 |
|  | Under 18 |  |  | 45.75 |  | 91.44 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 100x50 | 91.44 x | 130x100 | 118.87 x | 24x8 | 5 |
| 16 | Open Age |  |  | 45.75 |  | 91.44 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

(D) *A team shall not include any player / more than\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ players who has/have taken part in any\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or more senior competition matches during the current season unless a period of \_\_\_\_\_\_has elapsed since they played.* OPTIONAL RULE NOT ADOPTED BY THE LEAGUE.

(E) A player having taken part in matches for any Club affiliated to any County Football Association shall not be allowed to join, be transferred to, or sign for a Club in the Competition without first proving to the officials of the intended Club that the player has discharged all reasonable financial liabilities to the previous Club or Clubs, and a Club official may not accept such player’s signature without ascertaining whether such claims have been discharged to the satisfaction of the Club, or clubs, for which the player last played.

(F) Player Registrations received before 31st July each year will be free of charge. Each registration submitted after this date, and up to the start of the season will incur a fee of £2 per player registration. A laminated Team Sheet will be issued at least 7-days prior to the start of the season. After the initial issue, a charge of £5 will be made per every re-issue (to include registrations, de-registrations, transfer or lost/damaged sheets).

(G) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.

In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club priority of registration shall decide for which Club the player shall be registered. The Registrations Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

(H) It shall be deemed misconduct for a player to: -

1. Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season without first being transferred.
2. Having signed for one Club in the Competition, sign for another Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.
3. Submit a signed registration form for registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

(I) (i) The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any player subject to the provisions of clauses (ii) and (iii) below.

(ii) The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player at their discretion who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (Subject to Rule 16)

(iii) The Management Committee shall have the power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 16) *s*ubject to the right of appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this competition. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the player is registered or intending to be registered with.

(iv) For a player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with clause (iii) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute

(Note: Action under clause (iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the competition into disrepute andwill in any case be subject to an Appeal to the Football Association. All decisions must include the period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the competition into disrepute can only be considered where the player has received in excess of 112 days suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence for any team playing in this Competition).

(J) Subject to FA Rule C2(a) dealing with players without a written contract when a player desires a transfer, the Club the player wishes to transfer to shall submit a transfer form to the Registrations Secretary accompanied by a fee of £5. Such transfer shall be referred by the Registrations Secretary 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 Registrations Secretary and to the player concerned within seven days of receipt of the transfer form. Upon receipt of the Clubs consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within seven days, the Registrations Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such a time that the player’ Registration Card has been received by the new Club.

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

(K) A Player may not be registered for a Club nortransferred to another Club in the Competition after 28th February except by special permission of the Management Committee

(L) 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 must be clearly identifiable but not designated 'A' and 'B' or 1st or 2nd. In such cases, players will be registered for one team only. A player so registered will be allowed to play for his club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 8(B).

(M) 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 for inspection of any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee or League meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Season only.

(N) A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 12 (A)) unless the player has played in 3 league games for that team in the current season or was registered to play for that team 1 month prior to the game.

(O) *A player who has played for a team in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_times or more shall not in that season be eligible to play in a lower Division except by permission of the Management Committee. OPTIONAL RULE NOT ADOPTED BY THE LEAGUE.*

(P) (i) Any team trying to play any player who has not been registered for that team will be fined £25.00 and dealt with by the Management Committee as they think fit. Deliberate attempts to cheat and gain advantage may result in expulsion from the Competition, deduction of points or other sanctions as agreed by the Management Committee (subject to right of appeal).

(ii) In addition the team shall have 1 pointdeducted from its total at the discretion of the Management Committee and may be dealt with in any further manner which is thought to be fit.

(iii) The Management Committee may, at its discretion, award the points available in the match in question to the opponents in the match in question, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

(iv) If ineligible players are played the opposing team will also be subject to a fine of £10 if they have not checked registration cards prior to the game

(The following Clause applies to Competitions involving players in full-time secondary education): -

(Q) (i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities. This is not applicable for under 17/18 football.

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

(iii) A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August in a playing season, shall not be permitted to play in a match during that playing season where any other player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.

(Q) **A representative from each Club or Management Committee member must check the opposing teams’ players’ eligibility prior to the commencement of all League and Cup fixtures. Only players whose eligibility has been verified (by the checking of the official laminated registrations sheet held by each manager) will be allowed to play. In the event of their being special reasons why a player is missing from the Team Registration sheet, authority to play the player can only be given by the Registration secretary or League secretary. Failure to check eligibility via the registrations sheet will incur a fine of £25**

(R) Having played in a cup or shield match that player will be considered to have been cup tied for that season in both the cup and the shield.

(S) Teams will only be accepted to the league if in the opinion of the Management Committee and other Members they have adequate facilities and meet the requirements as laid out in the New Club / team proforma.

## CLUB COLOURS, CLUB NAME

9.

(A) Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 31st July who shall decide as to their suitability.

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from other players and the referee.

No player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.

Any team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify the colours in which they will play to its opponents at least 6 days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the away team shall make the change. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off by not having a change shall be fined £5.

The Secretary of the Competition may request shirts to be submitted if complaints are received as to the lack of distinguishing colours, and the Management Committee may refuse to permit any shirts or shorts as they think fit.

(B) Any Club wishing to change its name and/or colours must obtain permission from its affiliated County Football Association and from the Management Committee.

**PLAYING SEASON, CONDITIONS OF PLAY**

**TIMES OF KICK-OFF, POSTPONEMENTS, SUBSTITUTES**

10.

(A) The Annual General Meeting shall determine the commencement and concluding dates for the ensuing season which shall be in accordance with Football Association Rules. Original fixtures arranged by the Fixtures Secretary, or at a meeting specially convened for that purpose, to be held no later than 31st August, must not be arranged for a date later than seven days preceding the concluding date.

In accordance with Rule 4 (F)(i), a Divisions and Fixtures Meeting held will be held in August. A draft of proposed divisions and fixtures will be circulated at least 14 days prior to this meeting. A club wishing to challenge or propose the structure of any division must do so in, in writing, no later than 2 days prior to the day of the meeting and must be present at that meeting. Fixtures are deemed to be accepted unless objections are received by the Fixtures Secretary within fourteen days of their issue.

Fixtures will usually be set for the Sunday, but may be played on the Saturday by mutual consent. Fixtures may also be played during the week immediately after the Sunday fixture date, by mutual consent and only after seeking consent from the Fixture Secretary. The Fixture Secretary will update the fixture list**.**

With the exception of the Under 16, 17 and 18 age groups, the Home Club will set the kick off time, but consideration must be given to flexibility to accommodate any reasonable request from their opponents. In the event of a kick off time not being agreed,the Fixture Secretary will mediate to seek a compromise, or set a kick off time for the fixture.

(B) All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board or, for Mini-Soccer and 9 v 9 football, the Laws as set down by The Football Association.

Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their grounds in a playable condition. All matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee. If through any fault of the home team a match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have the power to order the venue to be changed.

The Management Committee shall have the power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for matches in the Competition and to order the Club concerned to play its fixtures on another ground.

Football Turf Pitches (3G Artificial Pitches) are allowed in this Competition providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA’s Register of Football Turf Pitches. For clubs playing at Step 7 and below from season 2014/15, all Football Turf Pitches used must be on the FA’s register and must be tested (by an 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 10(D).

All teams must have a fully equipped first aid kit present at all matches and an adult suitably trained in emergency first aid.

All matches should be played in accordance with the Laws appropriate to the relevant age group as laid down by the FA as detailed below unless a shorter time (not less than 20 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.

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

Teams will not be allowed to complete in any cup or shield final until their entire league programme is completed unless it is considered by the management committee that the failure to fulfil all fixtures was not fault of the team concerned.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition.

The home team must provide at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable.

A size 3 ball will be used for age groups under 7 to under 9.

A size 4 ball will be used for age groups under 10 to under 14.

A size 5 ball will be used for all other age groups.

Goal nets must be used. Goal posts must be securely anchored when in use.

(C) Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The Football Association and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the Fixtures Secretary. In the case of a revised fixture date, the clubs must be given by the Committee 5 clear day’s notice of the match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).

(D) The Secretary (or their designated representative) of the home club must give notice in writing 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 6 clear days prior to the playing of the match. The away Club shall seek and acknowledge receipt of such particulars if they are not immediately forthcoming in order to facilitate playing the game on the appointed date.

Any Clubs failing to comply with this rule will be liable to a fine of £10

Note: The intention of this rule is that the home club must confirm the details of the fixture 6 clear days prior to the match. If this does not happen, then the away club must contact them requesting the details, to ensure match arrangements are agreed no later than 6 clear days in advance. It is understood that text messages or emails may be used to confirm match details. These methods are only acceptable if a reply is obtained from the opposition. In the absence of any reply, any text message or email cannot be considered complete and the individual sending the message must make verbal contact with their opposing team representative.

(E) In the event of a Club playing a match with less than a full side they may be fined £1 for each missing player. The following constitutes a minimum amount of players to constitute a team:

* 5-a-side = 5 players
* 7-a-side = 5 players
* 9-a-side = 7 players
* 11-a-side = 9 players (under 13- [if this age group play 11-a-side]- and under 14 teams only)
* 11-a-side = 7 players (under 15, under 16, under 17 and under18 teams only)

Where a request to postpone a match has been submitted due to lack of players, the Management Committee require information on which players are missing and why.

(F)(i) Home and awaymatches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have the power to inflict a fine, deduct points from the defaulting club, award the points to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have the power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponents ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

Where a home team’s fixture is unplayable due to the condition of the pitch, the away team must be contacted to enquire whether the fixture can be reversed. If the away pitch is of a suitable condition, the fixture will be reversed even if this means a team may play two home or two away fixtures. If both pitches are unplayable, either a neutral pitch may be found or the fixture may be postponed in the normal manner.

(ii) **Clubs will be allowed to play home fixtures on Saturdays if pitch allocation dictates this if the League is notified at the start of the season, so that the generation of fixtures shows this, opponents will be expected to adhere to this.**

**Only the Fixtures Secretary responsible for the league in question may approve changes to the scheduled fixtures. This includes any changes to the scheduled fixtures for whatever reason. Any changes to a fixture made without the prior approval of the fixtures secretary will be regarded as an ‘unauthorised postponement’ and both clubs will be liable to a summary penalty of ten pounds. When a match has been postponed (for whatever reason) both teams must submit a fully completed postponement form in the prescribed manner.**

All matches must be played on the dates scheduled by the league but priority will be given to The Football Association and all Relevant County Association Cup competitions. Cup matches will take priority over league matches.

**The fixtures secretary will only approve postponements where this is beyond the reasonable endeavours of the club(s) to play the match and a postponement will not be approved where a club has been unable to put together a team. In such circumstances the matter will be reviewed by the management committee who may order that (i) the match be voided and points awarded or not awarded to either team depending on the circumstances OR (ii) the match be replayed at a date and time so ordered by the committee, AND (iii) any club responsible for the non‐fulfilment of the fixture be dealt by way of a fine or other sanction allowed for in these rules**.

**No postponement requests through lack of players will be approved for matches due to take place during**

**April. Matches will be voided & points awarded in these circumstances.**

(iii) Any club unable to fulfill a fixture or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Fixtures Secretary, the Referees Appointment Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the match officials. The club must state the reasons e.g. unavailability of players and provide full details. Any single fixture postponed for a reason other than those covered in League Rules 8 M(i), 10 C, 10 F(v), or without the consent of the Fixture Secretary, may result in the postponing club being fined £10 for the first offence and £20 for each and every subsequent offence.

The fixtures secretary will only approve postponements where this is beyond the reasonable endeavours of the club(s) to play the match and a postponement will not be approved where a club has been unable to put together a team. In such circumstances the matter will be reviewed by the management committee who may order that (1) the match be voided and points awarded or not awarded to either team depending on the circumstances OR (ii) the match be replayed at a date and time so ordered by the committee, AND (iii) any club responsible for the non-fulfillment of the fixture be dealt with by way of a fine or other sanction allowed for in these rules.

Only the Fixtures Secretary may approve changes to the scheduled fixtures.

If 7 days notice cannot be given, then the Club requiring a postponement must contact the Fixture Secretary by telephone to seek the consent to postpone in addition to the required formal request**.** All requests to postpone must be considered as not granted until such time the Fixture Secretary has confirmed the acceptance of postponement by email

(iv) In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixtures Secretary within 14 days the Management Committee shall have the power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date.

(v) 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 match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponent. In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their Club members, the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match as void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

(vi) The Management Committee shall review any match that has taken place where either or both teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by the Association or Affiliated Association. In each case the team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 8(O) above. Where both teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void.

(G) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 5 substitute players in any 11-a-side match in this Competition who may be selected from 5players.

**Mini Soccer** – any number of substitutes may be used at any time with the permission of the Referee. Entry onto the field of play will only be allowed during a stoppage in play. A player who has been replaced may return to the play as a substitute for another player. A Team must not have a match day squad greater than double the size of its team in an age group.

**Youth Football** – for teams in the under 18 age group and below, 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. A Team must not have a squad greater than18 players for 9-a-side and 22 players for 11-a-side teams.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than 5 minutes before the start of the 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 game shall not be considered to have been a player in that game within the meaning of Rule 8 of this Competition.

(H) The half time interval shall normally be of 10minutes duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

(I) The Competition shall require all players and club officials to have signed and abide by the FA’s Respect Codes of Conduct and produce these if so requested by the Management Committee.

Prior to each match the participating teams and officials shall conduct the ‘Respect’ handshake and/or participating teams to offer ‘three cheers’ and handshakes to the opposing team after the match. Any team identified as persistently disregarding this rule will be referred to the Management Committee

The participating clubs taking part in the fixture shall identify a team captain designated with a captain’s armband who has a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her team mates. If the participating players are considered to be too young to take on this role a member of the team coaching staff should provide this support.

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

**REPORTING RESULTS**

11.

(A) The Fixtures Secretary must receive within 48 hours of the date played, the result of each Competition match, in the prescribed manner. This must include the names of the team players and scorers and any other information required by the Competition, including a RESPECT score of the players, the coaches and the spectators. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £5 and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide. The Management Committee shall have the power to take such action as they deem suitable against a Club wich submitsincorrect information.

In the event of any match being played where the score-line at any time during the match means that one team is nine goals ahead of the other team this is the score which will be recorded for league purposes. Clubs will be encouraged, if a match reaches this point, to consider playing the rest of the period of play in as sporting a fashion as possible to the overall benefit of the young people concerned.

(B) Both Clubs shall notify the result of each match using the ‘Enter Results’ tab of the website. Clubs in default shall be fined.

(C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £5. All ‘signing’ of forms in this competition is performed electronically through the website.

            NB. If the fixed penalty exceeds £20 the Club must be charged as detailed in Rule 5(D).

(D) Leagues are permitted to collect but not to publish results for fixtures they organise for U7, U8, U9 and U10 Mini Soccer, and U11. They may require a Club to confirm that a set fixture has been played. A maximum fine of £5 may be imposed for a breach of this Rule.

**DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP**

12.

(A) Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points, with 3 points to be awarded for a win and 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. Matches must not be played for double points. In Mini Soccer points can only be awarded for under 10 Competitions onwards.

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points, team rankings shall be decided by deciding match(es)played under conditions determined by the Management Committee.

*(*B) Promotion and relegation may be applied for the first two teams and last two teams in each Division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 1(b), and their agreement

***(***i) Should one or more teams withdraw from any one Division after the fixtures have commenced an equal number of teams to those withdrawing in that Division shall not be automatically relegated.

(ii) Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the season may be filled by any of the following ways:

1. retention of otherwise relegated team(s)
2. additional promotion of the next ranked team(s) from the Division below, with their agreement

 **(**c) election

(C)In the event of a team not completing 100% of its fixtures for the season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting team may be expunged from the Competition table.

(D) Optional rule not adopted by the Competition.

**REFEREES**

13.

(A) Registered Referees (and Assistant Referees where approved by the FA or County FA) for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the sanctioning Association.

(B) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee or in cases where there are no officially appointed Assistant Referees, or where the competition has been unable to appoint a Referee, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee.

(C*)* The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee.Failure to do so will result in a fine of £5 being imposed on the defaulting Club. The home club must ensure that two suitable flags are available for Club Assistant Referees to use.

(D) The appointed Referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all 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 must be accepted unless the ground is declared fit for play.

(E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the sanctioning Association Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee and travel expenses at the rate determined and in force at the time of the match by the Cornwall FA. Registered Referees appointed by the Management Committee as Assistant Referees shall be paid a match fee and attract a travel expense rate as above.

The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees and expenses immediately after the match.

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

(G) A Referee not keeping his engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his 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 Football Association award marks to the referee for each match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

(I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the Form provided by the prescribed date each season, shall submit a summary to The County Football Association.

**CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR**

**WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB**

14.

(A) After 31st December in the current Season a Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing by 31st March each Season or be liable to a fine not exceeding £1

All Clubs wishing to remain in membership of the competition for the following Season must confirm their intention to do so, in writing, to the Secretary by 1st July.

(B) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition after the arrangement of fixtures for the following season. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £15 per team and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 5(D).

(C) The Membership for the coming season having been decided at the Annual General Meeting, the Competition shall have the right, irrespective of other provisions in this Rule, to refuse to permit a Club to withdraw its team(s) in order to join another Competition and may hold the Club to its engagements.

(D) In the event of a Member Club which is an unincorporated association withdrawing and/or disbanding it shall be immediately liable to discharge all its financial and other obligations to the Competition.

In the event that any such obligation remains undischarged after a period of 21 days then such obligation shall be met by the then current Club Members, excluding those under the statutory school leaving age. Until a Member’s pro rata obligation is discharged in full the Member shall not be allowed to participate in the Competition, which may apply to the Club’s Parent County Association for a suspension order.

**PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS**

15.

(A)(i) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee.

(ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match. Any Club lodging such a protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this Rule and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.

(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within 14 days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence or notification 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 a protest or complaint is being determined.

(C) Any dispute occurring between Clubs in the Competition shall be referred for determination by the Management Committee whose decision shall be binding upon all parties subject to Rule 16.

(D) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary asum of £5**.** This may be forfeited in whole or part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have the power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

(E) All parties to a protest or complaint must 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 they should forward a deposit of £5 and indicate such when forwarding the written response.

(F) When dealing with a protest or complaint the Management Committee shall take into consideration the possession by the protesting or complaining Club of any information which, if properly used, might have avoided the protest or complaint.

**BOARD OF APPEAL**

16.

Within 14 days of the date of posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee **or** the Competition a Club, Official or Player against whom action is taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Chief Executive of the Cornwall County Football Association, including a fee of £25, for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an Annual or Special General Meeting unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

**EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAMS**

**MISCONDUCT, CLUBS, OFFICIALS, PLAYERS**

17.

(A) At the Annual General Meeting, or Special General meeting called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, Notice of Motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from further membership 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.

(B) At the Annual General Meeting, or a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club or team of a Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(C) Any official 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 expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (A) and (B) of this Rule.

(D) Any Club or Team failing to complete 90% of its fixtures in any season shall (unless the conditions are beyond their control, or the accredited delegates present at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting decide otherwise by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast) be debarred from membership the following season.

**TROPHY: - LEGAL OWNERS, CONDITIONS OF TAKING OVER,**

**AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED. AWARDS**

18.

(A) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of any perpetual trophies:-

“We A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and B\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the Chairman and Secretary of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_FC, members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Cup or Trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the Cup or Trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 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 as determined by the Management Committee.

 (B) At the close of each Competition awards may be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

(C) Any perpetual trophy awarded must be returned to the Management Committee by the date of the April League and SGM. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £10 and/or a charge for a replacement trophy may be made.

**SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

19. Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting.

The Management Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time.

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

Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings.

Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only, as will members of the Management Committee.

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason shall be fined £25.

Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Special General Meetings.

All amendment of Rules can only be implemented once approved by the appropriate sanctioning authority.

**ALTERATION TO RULES**

20.

Alterations, for which consent has been given by the sanctioning Association shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 19. Any alterations made during the playing season to the Rule relating to the qualification of players shall not take effect until the following season.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31st Marchin each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs at the April League Meeting, and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 30th April**.** The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to the Clubs with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present and entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the sanctioning Football Association 7 days prior to 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**

21.

(A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.

(B) All expenditure in excess of £50 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.

(C) The financial year of the Competition will end on 30th May.

(D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be audited **o**r verifiedannually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

**INSURANCE**

22.All clubs must have public liability insurance cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000).

**DISSOLUTION**

23. (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a Special General Meeting by a majority of three quarters of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant Special General Meeting.

(B) In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.

(C) The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:

 (i) Any surplus assets, save for a Trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition 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.

**FESTIVAL EVENTS**

24.

(A) In addition to league and cup fixtures, the league will assist in the facilitation of Festival Events for member clubs. This will be held in a variety of venues and formats but will be bound by the Laws of Football for whichever age group and format is being played.

(B) Member clubs entering these festivals must ensure all teams and players due to participate are registered members of that club.

All coaches, officials, spectators and players must have read and signed the club's Codes of Conduct.

As participants will be from member clubs, it is understood that all required Insurance premiums are current and in force: this is particularly important for festivals that occur outside of the standard season.

Invited clubs who are not member clubs may participate in Festival Events. These clubs need to affiliated and registered with a County FA. Unaffiliated clubs, teams or players may not participate in any Festival Event.

Individual players are encouraged to participate in Festival Events in order to aid recruitment of member clubs. Any new player participating in a Festival Event for a club must be signed on as a member to cover the insurance implications.

(C) The league may charge a small fee per club or team or player to cover the additional costs associated with

facilitating a Festival Event.