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# **STANDARD CODE OF RULES**

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**SEASON 2010-2011**

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**NUNEATON & BEDWORTH MINOR  
FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
& NUNEATON & BEDWORTH GIRLS LEAGUE**

LEAGUE WEBSITE: <http://full-time.thefa.com>



**NUNEATON & BEDWORTH MINOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**LEAGUE RULES SEASON 2010/2011**

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## NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

1. The Competition shall be called the Nuneaton & Bedworth Minor Football League and the Nuneaton & Bedworth Girls League and shall consist of not more than 50 Clubs, who shall be full Member Clubs.

Any Club that is a nursery club of a senior or semi professional club, or affiliated to a School of Excellence will not be allowed to enter this League.

This League is a registered Respect League and member Clubs agree to abide by the principles of the "Respect" campaign including the "Respect Code of Conduct" herein and the need for designated spectators' areas as specified.

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 Birmingham County Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be no more than 8 miles from the Member Clubs designated headquarters.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Birmingham County Football Association and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, that will be determined by the League Management Committee. No more than two teams from any Member Club will be allowed to participate within any one League. This rule to be filtered within age groups so as to apply to teams already within same League.

Member Clubs shall not enter any of their teams playing in the Competition in any other Competitions (with the exception of F.A. and County F.A. Competitions), without first, asking for permission in writing to the League Secretary prior to entering the competition and by the 1<sup>st</sup> September of each season. Failure to do so may result in permission being refused

Clubs will only be allowed to enter their teams in one outside cup competition.

Clubs who are given permission must inform the League Fixtures Secretary in writing of the result of each round within 3 days of the match being played or postponed. Failure to do so will result in the offending club being fined up to a maximum according to **appendix 1**.

Clubs must inform the Fixtures Secretary in writing of all the dates and venues at least 14 days before the outside cup match is played. Failure to do so will result in the offending club being fined up to the maximum according to **appendix 1**.

The competition will provide 9-a-side or 11-a-side football for players who have attained the age of 10 as at midnight 31<sup>st</sup> August in a playing season and Mini-Soccer for players who have attained the age of 6 years but not the age of 10 years as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in a playing season.

## 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 League Secretary and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee of £10.00 per team which shall be returned in the event of non - election.

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.

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.

The League reserves the right to refuse admission to any team or club that has knowingly broken League rules, the rules of the Birmingham County Football Association or the rules of the Football Association.

(B) The Annual Subscription shall be according to **appendix 1**, per team, reviewed annually. At least half the current League fees per team must be paid before the start of the season, or the club will not be allowed to participate in the League. The remaining half of the fees must be

paid by the 1<sup>st</sup> December. Failure to do so will result in the offending club being fined according to **appendix 1** and all fixtures will be cancelled until the outstanding balance and fine is paid.

(C) Each Club shall, upon election, pay a deposit according to **appendix 1** 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, as stated in (B) and Deposit has been paid.

(E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 31<sup>st</sup> July of its Birmingham County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Season. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition.

### **OFFICERS**

3. The Officers of the Competition shall be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Fixtures Secretary, Registration Secretaries, Referees Secretary.

### **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 ten 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. No more than 3 members from each club are to serve on the Management Committee.

(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 the General League meeting in May 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 on the penultimate Thursday of each month or as often as is necessary to deal with business as it arises. On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee.

Any Management Committee member, who fails to attend 3 consecutive meetings, without suitable explanation or is deemed guilty of undesirable conduct, could after a vote of no confidence have his/her seat declared vacant.

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

(E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Club Secretaries.

### **POWERS OF MANAGEMENT**

5. (A) The Management Committee 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 Football Association or affiliated Association.

(B) Subject to the permission of the Birmingham 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 directly appertaining to such Member or to the Club so represented, he/she must leave the meeting while the matter is discussed. (This shall apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).

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

(D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules. Except where these Rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty any Club, Club Official (limited to Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer) or Player alleged to be in breach of a Competition Rule must be formally charged in writing and given the opportunity to present their case before the Management Committee. Financial penalties can only be imposed if included within the set penalties for breaches of Competition Rules. 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 FA 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 fourteen days.

(F) 50% of the Members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and three 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 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 the correspondence of the Competition shall be liable to be fined or otherwise penalised in accordance with **appendix 1**.

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

Clubs, Officials or individuals committing a breach of this Rule will be fined up to the maximum specified in **appendix 1**.

A Club having failed to comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee within 21 days of receipt of notice of such order, or within 14 days of an operative date specified in that order, shall not be allowed to play or take part in the business of the League until that order has been complied with and a reason given for the delay has been furnished to the League Secretary, who shall submit the reason to the Management Committee for their adjudication.

(J) Standard rule is not applicable to this League.

(K) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the Annual General 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.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

6. **A)** The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30<sup>th</sup> June each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 50% of Members are present and entitled to vote:-
- (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
  - (ii) To consider any business arising there from.
  - (iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
  - (iv) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee).
  - (v) Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
  - (vi) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
  - (vii) Appointment of Auditors.
  - (viii) Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
  - (ix) Fix the date for the commencement and conclusion of playing season.
  - (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.
  - (xi) Result of Sportsmanship Trophy ballot
- (B)** A copy of the Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least seven days prior to the meeting, and to the Birmingham County Football Association.
- (C)** A signed copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Birmingham 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. Not less than 7 days notice shall be given to 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.
- (F)** All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least two thirds 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 according to **appendix 1**.
- (I)** Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting.
- (J)** Upon receipt of a requisition signed by two thirds of the member clubs of the League, the League Secretary shall call a special General meeting. The Management Committee may call a General meeting at any time it is considered necessary. At least seven days notice of the agenda for such meetings shall be given to all clubs.

#### **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  
 \_\_\_\_\_ F.C have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if  
 elected or accepted into Membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept,  
 abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition,  
 subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

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

## QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

8. (A) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules are not permitted in this Competition.

No player registered with a F.A. Premier League or Football League Academy 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. Where a player registers with an Academy or Centre of Excellence their League registration automatically becomes invalid and that player is deregistered from the League from the date he / she is registered with the Academy or Centre of Excellence. The registration card of said player must be returned to the appropriate League Registration secretary.

A club headquarters must be a valid postal address, and be nominated before the registration of any player is made at the start of the season, and must remain valid for the whole of the season, unless subjected to reasons beyond Member Clubs control. Where a player is registered with a different League, details of the Club and League must be notified in writing to the appropriate Registration secretary.

Any club shall not be allowed to register a player whose home address is greater than eight miles from the clubs nominated headquarters, unless that player was registered to the same club in the previous season, without prior approval from the Management Committee.

Registration of all players at the start of the season will be made at a time / date / venue specified by the Management Committee.

All players must be registered at least ten days prior to their team's first match of the season. Any team whose players are registered less than ten days before their first allocated fixture, will be fined up to the maximum specified in **appendix 1** and may be held responsible for any postponements at the discretion of the Management Committee.

Registration of players after the first match of the season will be made by appointment or by post with the Registration Secretary. Players will be eligible to play in this League subject to other rules, immediately after registration.

The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.

(B) A registered youth playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:

Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by his /her parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the Registration Secretary and whose completed registration counterfoil has been received by the Club prior to playing . The registration document must incorporate 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.

No team may have more than ten (Mini - Soccer) under 8's to under 10's inclusive , fourteen (9-a-side) under 11's or sixteen (Youth Football) under 12's to under 16's inclusive registered at any one time. Any additional registrations can therefore only be made upon de-registration/ transfer of existing players.

All Clubs will keep a copy of the registration forms/cards for each player. Registration cards must be taken to all matches within this League, and produced. Any member of the Management Committee, Club Secretary, or team managers may carry out a registration check. Registration cards must be exchanged by both team managers for the duration of the match and returned to the opposing team manager at the completion of the game. Failure to produce these cards upon request, the club may be fined according to **appendix 1**, and may result in the match being forfeited, or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.

The registration document must incorporate a current passport-size photograph of the player seeking registration.

If a player's age is required for registration purposes a Competition must accept an original birth certificate. In cases where the birth certificate is not available a Competition is required to accept the player's passport or other official document issued by a Government Agency attesting to the player's date of birth.

While serving in any branch of Her Majesty's Regular Forces, a player must first obtain the consent of his/her Commanding Officer before signing a registration form to play for a Club.

The qualification dates for the competition shall be as follows:

### **Mini – Soccer**

To play in a KO Cup game or a game where points are awarded, or results collected, a player must have achieved the age of 8 on or before 31<sup>st</sup> August.

**Under 8** - the player must be under the age of 8 as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the playing season.

**Under 9** - the player must be under the age of 9 as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the playing season.

**Under 10** - the player must be under the age of 10 as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the playing season.

In accordance with the foregoing qualifications a player in the above age ranges must not play in a match where any other player is older or younger by two years or more.

### **Youth Football**

**Under 11** - the player must have attained the age of 10 but must be under the age of 11 by midnight 31<sup>st</sup> August in the playing season.

**Under 12** - the player must be under the age of 12 as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the playing season.

**Under 13** - the player must be under the age of 13 as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the playing season.

**Under 14** - the player must be under the age of 14 as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the playing season.

**Under 15** - the player must be under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the playing season.

**Under 16** - the player must be under the age of 16 as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the playing season.

In accordance with the foregoing qualifications a player under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the playing season must not play in a match where any other player is older or younger by 2 years or more.

(The aforementioned qualification dates are subject to the provisions contained in FA Rule C.4(a)(vi)).

**(C)** Standard rule not applicable to our League

**(D)** 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 first ascertaining whether such claims have been discharged to the satisfaction of the Club, or Clubs, for which the player last played.

**(E)** Teams are to be provided with registration forms. Extra Registration forms can be obtained from the Registrations Secretary on prepayment of 50p per form. No team may have more than the permitted number of registration forms at any one time. Any additional registrations can therefore only be made upon de-registration/ transfer of existing players.

**(F)** 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 Registration Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

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

- (i) Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season without first being transferred.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) Submit a signed registration form for registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

**(H)** (i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player.

(ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player 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) subject to the right of appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated conduct, 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 with.

(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 and will in any case be subject to an Appeal to the Football Association. 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.)

**(I)** Subject to The Football Association Rules( Rule C2(a) in the FA Handbook and also replicated as BCFA Rule 17) 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 £ 5.00. 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 Club's 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, immediately following the completion of the transfer procedure. In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision and whilst such a decision is pending, the transfer shall be suspended, and the player shall continue to be eligible to play for his existing Club.

No Club shall hold a player against such players wishes or retain any players registration form, provided he has fulfilled his obligations.

**(J)** A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 1<sup>st</sup> March except by special permission of the Management Committee. Where special permission is granted an administration fee of £10 is payable.

**(K)** 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 designated "A" and "B" etc. In such cases, players will be registered for one team only. A players so registered will be allowed to play for his Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 8 (B).

**(L)** A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Registrations Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Season only.

**(M)** 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 three games for that team in this Competition in the current season.

**(N)** Standard rule does not apply within this League

**(O)** (i) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players shall have the points gained in the match deducted from its total and will be fined up to the maximum according to **appendix 1**.

(ii) In addition the team shall have 3 points deducted 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, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

(iv) A player found guilty of playing whilst under suspension imposed by the F.A or County Football Association, will be declared ineligible under the definition of this rule. As such, this participation would incur the same penalty on his club as if they were to have played a player who was ineligible for an other reason; eg. Unsigned or not legally transferred, etc.

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

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

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

(iii) Children under 15 shall not play in a team involving players who are more than 2 years older.

(Note: For players under the age of 18 the provisions contained in Football Association Rules will apply.)

#### **CLUB COLOURS. CLUB NAME**

9. **(A)** Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the League Secretary, 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 five days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the home 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 at the discretion of the Management Committee.

The Secretary of the Competition may request shirts to be submitted if complaints are received as to 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.

Clubs must only use advertising on their shirts/jerseys in accordance with F.A rules, which are printed in the B.C.F.A directory.( Pages 205-208 inclusive )

## **PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY**

### **TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES**

10. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall determine the commencing dates for the ensuing season which shall be in accordance with Football Association Rules. No Club shall be compelled to play after the concluding date. Original fixtures arranged by the Fixtures Secretary, or at a meeting specially convened for that purpose, must not be arranged for a date later than seven days preceding the concluding date determined by the Annual General Meeting.

(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, the Laws of Mini Soccer 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 power to order the venue to be changed.

In circumstances where the home pitch is unplayable or unavailable the game must be played on the away team's pitch, if playable and available. Where local Council pitches are playable and available, this option must also be investigated.

The Management Committee shall have 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.

All matches shall have a duration as set out below, mutually arranged by the two captains in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

The maximum time to be played in all League matches is set out below:

|          |   |         |                   |
|----------|---|---------|-------------------|
| Under 8  | - | 30 mins | (15mins each way) |
| Under 9  | - | 40 mins | (20mins each way) |
| Under 10 | - | 40 mins | (20mins each way) |
| Under 11 | - | 60 mins | (30mins each way) |
| Under 12 | - | 60 mins | (30mins each way) |
| Under 13 | - | 70 mins | (35mins each way) |
| Under 14 | - | 70 mins | (35mins each way) |
| Under 15 | - | 80 mins | (40mins each way) |
| Under 16 | - | 80 mins | (40mins each way) |

The minimum time to be played in all League matches is set out below , and only if mutually arranged by the Managers in consultation with the Referee.

|          |   |         |                   |
|----------|---|---------|-------------------|
| Under 8  | - | 24 mins | (12mins each way) |
| Under 9  | - | 30 mins | (15mins each way) |
| Under 10 | - | 30 mins | (15mins each way) |
| Under 11 | - | 50 mins | (25mins each way) |
| Under 12 | - | 50 mins | (25mins each way) |
| Under 13 | - | 60 mins | (30mins each way) |
| Under 14 | - | 60 mins | (30mins each way) |
| Under 15 | - | 70 mins | (35mins each way) |
| Under 16 | - | 70 mins | (35mins each way) |

No player under the age of 17 as at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August in any season shall be permitted to play more than one game or, in the event the competition allows the playing of a double-header, ie: two separate matches, 100 minutes per day in this Competition.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed by the Management Committee. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time shall be fined according to **appendix 1**, or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition. The team(s) responsible for a match failing to start at the appointed time shall be fined in accordance to **appendix 1**.

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. The size of football to be used : - For Mini-Soccer, size 3 for those playing under 8 age categories, size 4 for under 9s and 10s. For youth football - size 4 for those playing under 11, 12, 13 and 14 age groups; size 5 for all other age groups. Goal nets must be used. The home team must supply corner flags. Both home and away teams must have a complete First Aid Kit at all matches.

**(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 all relevant 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. Unless subject to agreement under rule (Ca) , matches will normally be played on Sunday afternoons. Only under special circumstances and with the agreement of the Secretary and both teams, may matches be scheduled for a different kick off time. In such cases the Fixtures Secretary and the Referee shall be informed by telephone before the date of the game. Teams failing to comply with this may be ordered to commence the match at the original appointed time.

(i) Where teams are unable to fulfil regular home Sunday fixtures at the normal kick off times, a written request to change the start time and detailing the reasons, shall be sent to the League Secretary. The matter shall then be included for consideration at a General League meeting, following which, a vote will be taken. Should the vote sanction a change, then the arrangement will apply to all fixtures for the whole of that season and compliance shall be binding on all Clubs.

(ii) At the discretion of the League Fixtures Secretary, matches may be scheduled for a mid-week date. The exact date for such mid-week matches shall be subject to the mutual agreement of both teams. If such agreement between both team Managers cannot be achieved , then the match shall be played on the Wednesday of the specified week. Matches shall not be scheduled for a date later than the Saturday of the specified week. With the full agreement of both Managers a mid-week match may be scheduled for a date earlier than that stated on the fixture list. In such cases the Fixtures Secretary shall be informed by telephone before the revised date.

Should for any reason a mid-week match not be played, the Fixtures Secretary must be informed during the scheduled week by telephone, by a representative of the home team.

**(D)** A 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 nominated representative of the opposing Club at least five clear days prior to the playing of the match. Email notification is acceptable but confirmation must be received. In the absence of email confirmation, telephone confirmation must be obtained.

Failure to make contact by telephone will not be accepted as a reason for not confirming the match.

Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine according to **appendix 1**, at the discretion of the Management Committee.

**(E)** Every Club shall play its best available qualified team or teams in all matches in the Competition. Teams fielding less than eleven players may be fined for each deficient player. In the event of a Club playing any match with less than a full team of players, they may be fined £ 5.00 for each missing player. A minimum of seven players will constitute a team for a competition match.

(Note: The intention of this Rule is not to interfere with normal team selection by Clubs, but to prevent Clubs deliberately fielding a weakened team. If, in the opinion of the Management Committee, the substance or spirit of the Rule is obviously being disregarded, the Club or Clubs concerned may be called to account for its/their actions and shall be subject to such decisions as the Management Committee may determine, despite the fact that Rule 8 has not been infringed.)

**(F)** Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have the power to inflict a fine, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award 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.

The foregoing also applies to a Club turning up with insufficient players to constitute a team as per Rule 10E and Clubs conceding fixtures

Any Club with more than one team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence;- First Team, Reserve Team, A Team. Clubs in breach of this requirement shall be fined a sum not exceeding £50 or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee

Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture must, without delay, give notice to the League Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointment Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the match officials. Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict any penalty it may deem suitable.

Any Club wishing a free date without a fixture must give 28 days notice in writing to the League Fixtures Secretary. This request may only be implemented once per team in any one season for League fixture only.

In the event of the 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 Fixtures Secretary within 7 days the Management Committee shall have power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date.

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 opponents and/or take what other action they may deem necessary. 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.

**(G)** A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use five substitute players, from five named substitutes.

For Mini - Soccer - any number of substitutes may be used at any one 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.

For Youth Football - for teams in the under 16 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.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes, not later than 10 mins 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 be of five minutes duration but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the Referee.

## **REPORTING RESULTS**

11. (A) The Secretary must receive within 3 days of the date played, the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the team players (in block letters) and also the Referee markings required by Rule 13, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £5.00 and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decides.

(i) Teams awarding a referee assessment mark of fifty or under shall in writing at the same time as the delivery of that assessment give their reason for the low assessment. Clubs failing to comply will be fined up to the maximum given in **appendix 1**.

(B) Both teams shall text the result of each match to the FA Full-Time website when the text prompt is received on the registered mobile telephone numbers. Both managers simply text the word RESULT followed by the score with a space between the word RESULT and the two numbers eg RESULT 2 1. No other details are required. Teams failing to comply with this Rule shall be fined £5. If teams wish to provide scorers details please e-mail the relevant Press Officer before 18.30hrs on the day of the game.

In the event of a match being postponed by the Referee or controlling authority ( eg School, Local Council ) managers simply text the word RESULT P P (substituting the letters P for the scores). Teams failing to comply with this rule will be fined at the discretion of the Management Committee.

For all mid-week matches the process above should be followed.

Under 8 teams should e-mail results only to the League Press & Website Co-ordinator. The under 8 age group is non-competitive so results are not shown on the website and are collected for purpose of next season's divisional allocation only.

(C) The Match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club. The match report form completely completed must be handed to the Referee before the start of the match. After the match the result shall be entered and the form should be signed by the Referee, before passing the match report back for both Managers to sign. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure their section is completed before submission by the home team. The Management Committee shall have the power to take such action as they deem suitable against a Club which submits an incomplete form or incorrect information.

## **DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP**

12. (A) Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points. In Mini Soccer points can only be awarded for Under 9 Competitions onwards.

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points for the top two places at the end of the League, a deciding match(es) shall be played under conditions determined by the Management Committee. A Referee and assistant Referee's will be allocated for such games : expenses shall be equally shared by both teams.

(B) Not applicable to our League.

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

## **REFEREES**

13. (A) Registered Officials for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the sanctioning Association(s). Registered officials include level 9 trainee referees.

(B) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee or in cases where there are no officially appointed Referees, or where the competition has been unable to appoint a Referee,

the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. If teams fail to agree, a coin will be tossed, the winner will supply the Referee. A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee, and shall be entitled to charge the nominal fee.

(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 an adult, Club assistant referees. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £ 5.00, being imposed on the defaulting Club.

(D) The appointed Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and 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) The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees, in all Cup and League matches, the fee's shall be shared equally by both teams. Officials shall be entitled to charge the fee specified in **appendix 1**, to be subject to the guidelines set down by the Birmingham County Football Association. The home Club shall pay the officials their fees before or immediately after the match. Any Club failing to meet this requirement shall be fined up to the maximum stated in **appendix 1**, and will also be responsible for any missing match fee's.

(F) In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half the match fee. 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 or her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Association with which he or she is registered.

(H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The 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.

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 Football Association/County Football Association.

(I) Not applicable to our League

(J) Referees and Assistant Referees shall be supplied, each Season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.

#### **CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB**

14. (A) After 31<sup>st</sup> December in the current season, a Club intending or having 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 31<sup>st</sup> March each season, or be liable to a fine not exceeding £ 50,00.

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 31<sup>st</sup> March

(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 the current League fee's, as specified in **appendix 1**, and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 5(B).

(C) The membership for the coming season having been decided at a Special General meeting held for that purpose, not later than 1<sup>st</sup> Friday in June, 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 un-incorporated 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 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 Clubs 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 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 League Secretary within four days of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A Member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such 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 League Secretary a sum according to **appendix 1**. 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 enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

(E) All parties to a protest or complaint must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement when the protest or complaint is being heard and must have received seven days notice of the hearing, together with a copy of the submission. 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 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 Secretary of the Birmingham County Football Association, including a fee specified in the B.C.F.A rules 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.

A copy of the appeal to the B.C.F.A must be sent to the League Secretary. The operation of the decision made by the Management Committee shall not be suspended pending the result of the appeal, unless the Board of Appeal or the B.C.F.A Council (through its officers) orders such suspension.

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 of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. Clubs and Management Committee Members, not already with the power to vote on behalf of a Member Club, shall be entitled to one vote each.

(B) At the Annual General Meeting, or at 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 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.

The Committee may charge a Club with bringing the League into disrepute if its players, officials or spectators behave in an unacceptable manner determined by the Executive Committee, and also if it fails to satisfy the Committee that it has taken all precautions to prevent all assaults on referees, players, or other officials, before, during or after matches. The Club must satisfy the Committee that given the circumstances they have dealt with the players, officials, or spectators in the proper manner. A Club charged with bringing the League into disrepute shall be invited to present evidence before a disciplinary meeting of the Committee.

A Club found guilty at such a disciplinary meeting of bringing the League into disrepute shall be fined and warned as to their future conduct subject to appeal to the Birmingham County Football Association, or suspended from membership of the League as determined at a Special General Meeting.

**TROPHY:- LEGAL OWNERS, CONDITIONS OF TAKING OVER,**  
**AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED. AWARDS.**

18. A Competition Cup or Trophy shall be vested in the Association sanctioning the Competition as Trustees. If a Competition be discontinued for any cause the Cup or Trophy shall be returned to the Donor, if the conditions attached to it so provide, or otherwise dealt with as the Association may decide. At the close of each Competition awards may be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit. At the discretion of the Management Committee, Clubs may be charged with the cost to restore the trophy to its original condition. Trophies must be returned to the designated League official by 1<sup>st</sup> March each season, with the trophy properly engraved. Clubs not returning trophies by this date may be fined at the discretion of the Management Committee.

A representative of the winning club is required to sign for receipt of the trophy when it is presented. The designated League official will sign for the trophy when it is returned and inspected.

The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners / runners - up of the Cup/Trophy

“ We A \_\_\_\_\_ and B \_\_\_\_\_, the Chairman and Secretary of \_\_\_\_\_ F.C , members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners/ runners - up of the \_\_\_\_\_ Cup/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/Trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before 1<sup>st</sup> March, each season. If the Cup 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 “

## 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 seven days 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. Each Management Committee member shall be entitled to one vote.

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a General meeting / Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined according to **appendix 1**.

## ALTERATION TO RULES

20. Alterations 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 alteration 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 League Secretary by the first Friday in May in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs seven days previous to the Annual General meeting. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to 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 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 ( B.C.F.A ), 21 days prior to the date of the meeting.

Any alterations or additions decided upon at any meeting shall not become operative until the approval of the Association issuing sanction shall have been obtained.

## RULES BINDING ON CLUBS

21. (A) Each Member Club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the foregoing Rules and agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee subject to Rule 16. Each Member Club must abide by any issued Football Association Code of Conduct.

**(B) (i) All Clubs shall be responsible for the conduct of their players, officials, and spectators.** All Clubs shall have a Code of Conduct as part of their constitution, acceptable to the League Committee, and it is to be submitted to the League Secretary by 15<sup>th</sup> August each season.

The League will supply a Code Of Conduct which will be a minimum requirement for membership. This must be included within a Clubs Code Of Conduct. A Clubs Code Of Conduct shall be voted on by each Club on an annual basis as part of it's A.G.M. It is to be signed by the Clubs officials - Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Management Committee reserve the right to take any action they consider appropriate, where Clubs fail to implement their ' Code of Conduct ' to the satisfaction of the Committee.

(ii) Any Club failing to attend a general meeting will be fined according to **appendix 1**. After failing to attend 3 meetings in any one season, the fine shall be doubled for the third absence, and continually doubled for each subsequent absence, subject to the discretion of the Management Committee.

## FINANCE

22. (A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial

institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.

(B) All expenditure 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 the first Friday in May each season.

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

**Appendix 1. (highlighted in Rules)**

|                | £      |                   | £             |                         |
|----------------|--------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Rule 1.        | 5.00   |                   |               |                         |
| Rule 2.B       | 60.00  | <i>Minor Fees</i> | Rule 10.F     | 50.00                   |
|                | 40.00  | <i>Mini Fees</i>  |               |                         |
|                | 10.00  | <i>Default</i>    | Rule 11.A     | 5.00                    |
| Rule 2.C       | 10.00  |                   | Rule 11.A(i)  | 10.00                   |
| Rule 5.H       | 10.00  |                   | Rule 11.B     | 5.00                    |
| Rule 5.I       | 5.00   |                   | Rule 11.C     | 15.00                   |
| Rule 6.H       | 10.00  |                   | Rule 13.C     | 5.00                    |
| Rule 8.A       | 20.00  |                   | Rule 13.E     | 22.00                   |
|                |        |                   |               | <i>Ref(U11-U14)</i>     |
|                |        |                   |               | 25.00                   |
|                |        |                   |               | <i>Ref (U15-U16)</i>    |
|                |        |                   |               | 12.00                   |
|                |        |                   |               | <i>Ref(Mini soccer)</i> |
| Rule 8.B       | 50.00  |                   |               | 17.00                   |
| Rule 8.O       | 100.00 |                   |               | <i>Asst Ref</i>         |
|                |        |                   |               | 10.00                   |
|                |        |                   |               | <i>Default</i>          |
| Rule 10.B(vi)  | 5.00   |                   | Rule 14.A     | 50.00                   |
| Rule 10.B(vii) | 5.00   |                   | Rule 15.D     | 5.00                    |
| Rule 10.D      | 5.00   |                   | Rule 19       | 10.00                   |
| Rule 10.E      | 5.00   |                   | Rule 21.B(ii) | 10.00                   |

**INTERNAL CUP RULES**

|        |      |           |      |
|--------|------|-----------|------|
| Rule J | 5.00 | Rule K(i) | 7.00 |
|        |      | (ii)      | 1.00 |

**INTERNAL CUP RULES**

- A. A player cannot play for more than one club in the same internal competition in one season
- B. With the exception of the first round, all players must have played in at least one League match before they can be considered eligible to take part in an internal cup competition.
- C. Unless rule 10Gii can apply, cup matches not played on the fixed date shall be forfeited by the offending team and the defaulting team shall be dealt with under rule 10Gi
- D. Teams playing ineligible players shall forfeit the match and / or may be fined or otherwise dealt with in accordance with rule 8Q
- E. Duration of matches to be the same as League matches for the relevant age-group. Extra time of 20mins (10mins each way)- Minor soccer and 10 mins (5 mins each way) -Mini soccer will be played in all drawn matches. Should the game be tied at the end of extra time it shall then be decided by kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with F.I.F.A instructions. All cup games will therefore be played to a conclusion.

- F. Semi - finals and Finals are to be played on neutral venue at the discretion of the Management Committee and official assistant Referee's will be appointed where possible. The first named team on the fixture list will be considered the home team and will be responsible for providing the corner flags and goal nets, as well as match confirmation, in accordance with League rules. In the event of both teams, in the opinion of the Referee, having the same or similar colours, the home team shall be required to change.
- G. A player signed after a team has reached the semi-final of a competition shall not be eligible to play in that competition unless he has played in at least three League matches.
- H. Both teams shall submit a match ball to the Referee
- I. If the competition is played on a group basis, the winner of one group shall play the runners up of the other group in the next round. These groups shall be organised on a League basis and shall be played in accordance with League rule 12. Such matches shall be deemed League matches for the purpose of internal cup rules B and G.
- J. In cup finals, both competing teams will be required to supply two stewards, whose names shall be given in writing, to the League secretary at least five days prior to the match. Any club failing to provide two stewards will be fined in accordance with appendix 1. These stewards will be held responsible for the control of all spectators from their team. Any club, whose spectators refuse to submit to this control, will be charged under League rule 17 C.
- K. (i) Each cup finalist will be charged an amount specified in **appendix 1**, towards the cost of engraving all individual trophies.  
 ii) All adult spectators will pay an amount specified in **appendix 1** to attend Cup Finals. A programme will be given in return.
- L. All other rules apply as Standard Code

## **CHILD PROTECTION STATEMENT**

1. Any act, statement, conduct or other matter which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children, shall constitute behaviour which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.
2. In these regulations the expression " Offence" shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in Schedule 1 to the Child and Young persons Act 1933 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes the Association to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.
3. Upon receipt by The Association of -
  - (i) Notification that an individual has been charged with an offence or
  - (ii) Notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, Social Services or any other authority relating to the offence or
  - (iii) any other information which causes the Association reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then The Association shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it seems fit.
4. In reaching its determination as to whether an order under Regulation 3 should be made The Association shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors -
  - (i) whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm
  - (ii) whether the matters are of a serious nature
  - (iii) whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by The Association or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded
5. The period of an order referred to in 3 above shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge under the Rules of the Association or any Offence is decided or brought to an end

6. Where an order is imposed on an individual under regulation 3 above The Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of The Association against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.
7. Where a person is convicted or is made the subject of a caution in respect of an offence, that shall constitute a breach of the Rules of the Association and The Association shall have the power to order the suspension of the person from all or any specific football activity for such a period (including indefinitely) and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
8. For the purpose of these Regulations, The Association shall act through its Council or any committee or sub - committee thereof including the Board.
9. Notification in writing, of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or any Club with which he is associated as soon as reasonably practicable.

## **DESIGNATED SPECTATORS' AREAS**

One of the key elements of Respect in youth football is the creation 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 spectators barrier

The areas literally draw the line which parents and spectators should not cross and research has shown it to have a beneficial impact on the behaviour of spectators and their impact on players and match officials.

If using the Respect barriers endorsed by The FA the ideal arrangement is to mark out a Designated Spectators' Area on one side of the pitch for fans and parents/carers from both sides to stand behind. This allows the coaches of both teams to stand on the other side of the pitch, meaning players get instructions from just one side of the pitch.

Clubs may prefer an alternative form of marking a Designated Spectators' Area, but they must ensure this is safe for both the spectators and the players. The FA strongly recommends that clubs obtain formal agreement from the facility/pitch provider about which method of marking is most suitable for the pitch, before beginning any work or buying any new equipment. The safety of the players, officials and spectators is paramount.

The Spectators' Area 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.

Although the FA recommends the use of DSA's as best practice, Youth Leagues themselves introduce a requirement for the marking and use of designated spectator areas at club venues within their league rules although the actual specification of the areas should be determined by local arrangements.

## **RESPECT CODES OF CONDUCTS**

# Respect



### **Young Players**

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

As a player, you have a big part to play. That's why The FA is asking every player to follow a Respect Code of Conduct.

#### **When playing football, I will:**

- Always play to the best of my ability
- Play fairly - I won't cheat, complain or waste time.
- Respect my team-mates, the other team, the referee or my coach/manager.
- Play by the rules, as directed by the referee
- Shake hands with the other team and referee at the end of the game
- Listen and respond to what my coach/team manager tells me
- Talk to someone I trust or the club welfare officer if I'm unhappy about anything at my club.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA:

I may:

- Be required to apologise to my team-mates, the other team, referee or team manager
- Receive a formal warning from the coach or the club committee
- Be dropped or substituted
- Be suspended from training
- Be required to leave the club

In addition:

- My club, County FA or The FA may make my parent or carer aware of any infringements of the Code of Conduct
- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and suspension against my club

### **Spectators and parents/carers**

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game

This club is supporting The FA's Respect programme to ensure football can be enjoyed in a safe, positive environment.

Remember children's football is a time for them to develop their technical, physical, tactical and social skills. Winning isn't everything.

Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct for spectators and parents/carers at all times

**I will:**

- Remember that children play for FUN.
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success.
- Always respect the match officials' decisions
- Remain outside the field of play and within the Designated Spectators' Area (where provided)
- Let the coach do their job and not confuse the players by telling them what to do
- Encourage the players to respect the opposition, referee and match officials
- Avoid criticising a player for making a mistake - mistakes are part of learning
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, or abusive language or behaviour

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA:

I may be:

- Issued with a verbal warning from a club or league official
- Required to meet with the club, league or CFA Welfare Officer
- Required to meet with the club committee
- Obligated to undertake an FA education course
- Obligated to leave the match venue by the club
- Requested by the club not to attend future games
- Suspended or have my club membership removed
- Required to leave the club along with any dependents

In addition:

- The FA/County FA could impose a fine and/or suspension on the club

## **Match Officials**

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

The behaviour of the match officials has an impact, directly and indirectly, on the conduct of everyone involved in the game - both on the pitch and on the sidelines.

Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct of match officials at all time.

**I will:**

- Be honest and completely impartial at all times
- Apply the Laws of the Game and competition rules fairly and consistently
- Manage the game in a positive, calm and confident manner
- Deal with all instances of violence, aggression, unsporting behaviour, foul play and other misconduct
- Never tolerate offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour from players and officials
- Support my match official colleagues at all times
- Set a positive personal example by promoting good behaviour and showing respect to everyone involved in the game
- Communicate with the players and encourage fair play
- Respond in a clear, calm and confident manner to any appropriate request for clarification by the team captains
- Prepare physically and mentally for every match
- Complete and submit, accurate and concise reports within the time limit required for games in which I officiate.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA:

**I may be:**

- Required to meet with The FA/County FA Refereeing Official
- Required to meet with The FA/County FA Refereeing Committee
- Obligated to attend or re-attend The FA Respect training or other FA education course
- Issued with a written warning
- Fined by the County FA
- Offered less senior appointments
- Suspended from all appointments for a defined period
- Excluded from affiliating as a FA Referee

## **Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials**

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game.

In the FA's survey of 37,000 grassroots participants, behaviour was the biggest concern in the game. This included the abuse of match officials and the unacceptable behaviour of over competitive parents, spectators and coaches on the sideline.

Play your part and observe the Football Association's Respect Code of Conduct in everything you do.

**On and off the field, I will:**

- Show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, opposition players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators
- Adhere to the laws and spirit of the game
- Promote Fair Play and high standards of behaviour
- Always respect the match official's decision
- Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour

**When working with players, I will:**

- Place the well-being, safety and enjoyment of each player above everything, including winning
- Explain exactly what I expect of players and what they can expect from me
- Ensure all parents/carers of all players under the age of 18 understand these expectations
- Never engage in or tolerate any form of bullying
- Develop mutual trust and respect with every player to build their self-esteem
- Encourage each player to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance
- Ensure all activities I organise are appropriate for the players' ability level, age and maturity
- Co-operate fully with others in football (e.g. officials, doctors, physiotherapists, welfare officers) for each player's best interests

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, County FA or The FA:

I may be:

- Required to meet with the club, league or County Welfare Officer
- Required to meet with the club committee
- Monitored by another club coach
- Required to attend a FA education course
- Suspended by the club from attending matches
- Suspended or fined by the County FA
- Required to leave or be sacked by the club

In addition:

- My FACA (FA Coaches Association) membership may be withdrawn