CROWBOROUGH & DISTRICT JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE
COMPETITION RULES - SEASON 2026/2027

1. DEFINITIONS

(A) In these Rules:

"**Affiliated Association"** means an Association accorded the status of an Affiliated Association under the rules of The FA.
"**AGM**" shall mean the Annual General Meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.
"**Club**" means a Club for the time being in membership of the Competition.
"**Club Portal**" means the system used by Clubs to affiliate Teams as determined by The FA from time to time.
"**Competition**" means the Crowborough & District Junior Football League.
"**Competition Match**" means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition. "**Contract Player**" means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play under a written contract of employment with a Club.
"**Deposit**" means a sum of money deposited with the Competition as part of the requirements of membership of the Competition.
"**Fees Tariff**" means a list of fees approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any matters for which fees are payable under the Rules, as set out at Schedule A. "**Fines Tariff**" means a list of fines approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any breach of the Rules, as set out at Schedule A.
"**Ground**" means the ground on which the Club's Team(s) plays its Competition Matches.
"**Management Committee**" means in the case of a Competition which is an unincorporated association, the management committee elected to manage the running of the Competition and where the Competition is incorporated it means the Board of Directors appointed in accordance with the articles of association of that company. "**Match Officials**" means the referee, the assistant referees and any fourth official appointed to a Competition Match. "**Mini Soccer**" means those participating at ages under 7s to under 11s
"**Non Contract Player**" means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play for a Club but has not entered into a written contract of employment.
"**Officer**" means an individual who is appointed or elected to a position in a Club or Competition which requires that individual to make day to day decisions.
"**Participant**" shall have the same meaning as set out in the rules of The FA from time to time.
"**Player**" means any Contract Player, Non Contract Player or other player who plays or who is eligible to play for a Club.
"**Player Registration System**" means The FA system to register players as determined by The FA from time to time. "**Playing Season**" means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the Competition is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the Competition is played. "**Rules**" means these Rules under which the Competition is administered.
"**Sanctioning Authority**" means the Sussex County Football Association Limited.
"Scholarship" means a Scholarship as defined in the FA Rules.
"Season" means the period of time between an AGM and the subsequent AGM.
"Secretary" means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration of the Competition. **"SGM"** means a Special General Meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition. **"Team**" means a team affiliated to a Club, including where a Club provides more than one Team in the Competition in accordance with the Rules.
"**The FA**" means The Football Association Limited.
"Virtual Meetings" means meetings held electronically.
"**written**" or "**in writing**" means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise. "**Youth Football**" means those participating at ages under 11s to under 18s.

(B) Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

(C) Unless otherwise stated a deadline is to be at the end of the day at 12:00 midnight. Example deadline of **31st May** is 12:00 midnight **31st May**.

(D) Where a period of days are given in a timescale day of notification counts as day Zero.

GOVERNANCE RULES

2. COMPETITION NAME AND CONSTITUTION

(A) The Competition will be known as "Crowborough & District Junior Football League" (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.

(B) This Competition shall consist of not more than 120 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority (C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be within a radius of 30 miles of Crowborough Cross..

(D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Competition acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.

(E) All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation thereto, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.

(F) The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules for Youth Competitions (the "Standard Code") determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.

(G) 1. All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association.

2. This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 12 in number.

(H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

1. The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (to include those contained in the Equality Act 2010).

2. This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community.

3. Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.

(I) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including, but not limited to, England Football.

Accredited and RESPECT programmes.

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

(J) All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The FA from time to time.

(K) Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing at a particular age group in the Competition in any other competition (with the exception of FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. A Club must immediately inform the Competition of the details of any fixture(s) in any other competition in which the Club has entered, for which written consent of the Management Committee has been obtained.

(L) At the AGM or a SGM called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the constitution of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 22.

3. CLUB NAME

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

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

4. ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

(A) Applications by Clubs for admission to the Competition must be made in writing to the Secretary or nominated officer, using the prescribed forms, and must be accompanied by an entry fee per Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election but not if the Club withdraws its application.

The entry of Team(s) from existing member Clubs must be made using the prescribed form by **31st May** of each year and accompanied by an entry fee per Team as set out in the Fees Tariff.

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

(B) An annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff for each Team (where a Club has more than one Team in membership of the Competition. It shall be payable by 31st July in each year

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

(C) A Deposit shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club and shall be payable on or before **31st July** in each year.

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

(D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Team entry fees, Team annual subscription(s) and required Deposits have been paid.

Failing which they shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(E) Clubs must ensure that all its Teams participating in the Competition are recorded as affiliated on the Club Portal for the forthcoming Playing Season by the **31st August**. Clubs must advise the Competition Secretary in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition.

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

(F) An all-female Team can apply to the Competition to play an age group down in a mixed gender competition, subject to rule 8A.3 & 4 and provided the Team has obtained approval from its Sanctioning Authority.

(G) In addition to Rule 4(C) each club shall pay an additional Deposit (as set out in the Fees Tariff), to be used to settle any fines imposed under the Rules of the Competition by the Management Committee.

5. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

(A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and a minimum of 1 member (but no more than 10 members) who shall all be elected at the AGM.

(B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than **31st May** in each year.

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

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

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

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

(E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary. Failure

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

(F) Personal callers will not be permitted at the home of any member of the Management Committee unless prior arrangement has been agreed. Telephone calls to members of the Management Committee will only be permitted between the hours of 9.00am and 9.00pm.

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

6. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

(A) The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee

shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association.

(B) Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each Season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any club which may have withdrawn during the Season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.

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

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

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

With the exception of Rules 6(I), 8(H) and 9, for all alleged breaches of a Rule the Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given 7 days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a Club may:-

1. Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
2. Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
3. Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
4. Deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case at a hearing before the Management Committee.

Where the Club charged fails to respond within 7 days, the Management Committee shall determine the charge in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.

Where required, hearings shall take place as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the reply of the Club as more fully set out above.

Having considered the reply of the Club (whether in writing or at a hearing), the Management Committee shall make its decision and, in the event that the charge is accepted or proven, decide on the appropriate penalty (with reference to the Fines Tariff where applicable).

The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £100 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

All breaches of the Laws of the Game or the Rules and Regulations of The FA shall be dealt with in accordance with FA Rules by the appropriate Association.

(E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.

(F) 51% of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof.

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

(H) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee.

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

(I) Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision.

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

(J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have

any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition. All expenses claimed by Officers, Management Committee Members (and Inter-League Managers when appropriate) must be supported by receipts, except for mileage which will be paid at a rate per mile to be decided by the Management Committee from time to time, provided details of such journeys are given.

(K) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season.

(L) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail (M) The Competition shall not cancel, postpone, or withdraw an entire programme of Competition Matches (e.g. all Competition Matches, or all Competition Matches within a single age group or division, taking place over a single day/week) without prior written approval from the Sanctioning Authority, except in exceptional circumstances of a serious nature (in which event, the Competition must provide notification of cancellation, postponement or withdrawal to the Sanctioning Authority at the same time as affected Teams).

7. PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

(A) 1. All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.

2. Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the Competition Match.

(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decides that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within 7 days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of their Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

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

(D) All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.

1. All parties must have received a minimum of 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend. 2. Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.

(E) The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.

(F) An intention to appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 7 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision.

A notice of appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 14 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision, accompanied by the relevant fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority.

Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.

(G) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

(H) If requested by all parties concerned, the Management Committee may determine any disputes, protests, appeals, claims or complaints between two Clubs in which event both Clubs shall send a non-returnable fee, as stated in the Fees Tariff. Such determination shall be final and binding upon the parties concerned. The procedure for such determination shall be determined by the Management Committee.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(A) The AGM shall be held not later than the last **Thursday in July** in each year. At this meeting the following business (in the following order) shall be transacted provided that at least 51% of members are present and entitled to vote:-

1. To receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding AGM.

2. To receive and adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts.

3. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.

4. Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.

5. Election of Officers of the Competition and the Management Committee members.

6. Appointment of auditors.

7. Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).

8. Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition. 9. Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season.

10. Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM. Clubs currently in membership of the Competition shall be entitled to vote on items 1 to 3 above.

Those clubs set to be accepted as Clubs in accordance with item 3 above shall be entitled to attend the AGM, but cannot vote on items 1-3 above.

All Clubs (i.e. those Clubs currently in membership of the Competition and those accepted as Clubs in accordance with item 3) shall be entitled to vote on items 4 to 10 above.

(B) A copy of the duly audited balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting together with any proposed Rule changes.

(C) A signed copy of the duly audited balance sheet and statement of accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM.

(D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. 14 days' notice shall be given of any AGM.

(E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 12.

(F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of hands, or count of email or virtual responses (for Virtual Meetings), unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chair so decides.

(G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.

(H) 1. Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM.

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

2. Any club that has submitted a valid application to join the Competition for the forthcoming season must have the opportunity to be put forward for membership and to have a vote taken on their membership application.

(I) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club (See Rule 8(G)).

(J) Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

9. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

(A) Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call an SGM. (B) The Management Committee may call an SGM at any time.

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

(D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. (E) Any Club failing to be represented at a SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

10. AGREEMENT TO RULES OF THE COMPETITION

(A) Membership of the Competition shall constitute an agreement between the Competition and a Club to be bound by and comply with these Rules (including any decision of the Management Committee made pursuant to these Rules).

(B) Any change of Chair, Secretary or Directors of the Club must be notified to the parent County Football Association to which the Club is sanctioned and to the Secretary of this Competition.

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

11. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

(A) Any Club intending, or having provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition must do so at least 30 days before the AGM.

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

Applications for membership from lapsed or prospective new member Clubs after **31st May** may be accepted at the discretion of the Management Committee and subject to a late entry fee as per the Fees Tariff. No applications shall be accepted after the date on which fixtures are published.

Any affiliated Club wishing to withdraw a Team from the Competition entered for the forthcoming Playing Season must do so by one week before the last **Sunday in July**. This does not apply to a Team moving in accordance with Rule 22(B).

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

(B) The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6(I), in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee shall be empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

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

(A) At the AGM or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the agenda by direction of the Management Committee, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to: (1) remove a member of the Management Committee from office, (2) exclude any Club or Team from membership, both of which must be supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A member of the Management Committee or Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(B) At the AGM, or at a SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club or Team whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(C) Any Officer or member of a Club found guilty of a breach of Rule, other than field offences, shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of clauses (A) and/or (B) of this Rule.

13. TROPHY

(A) When the winning Club has been ascertained, they will be presented with a memento that they will keep permanently.

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

Written application may be made to the Trophy Officer by the **31st May** for consideration to be given to making additional awards. The Payment for any additional awards made will be charged to the club

14. ALTERATION TO RULES

(A) Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at a SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season, except in exceptional circumstances where approved by Sanctioning Authority and The FA.

(B) Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by **30th March** in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs 21 days prior to the AGM via the website and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary within 10 days of the original posting. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

(C) A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

15. FINANCE

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

lodged.

(B) All expenditure in excess of £1000 shall be approved by the Management Committee.

(C) The financial year of the Competition will end on **31st May**.

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

16. INSURANCE

(A) All Clubs must have valid public liability insurance cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.

(B) All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition Match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the Sanctioning Authority. In instances where The FA is the Sanctioning Authority, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates.

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

17. DISSOLUTION

(A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.

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

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

1. 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 Authority.
2. 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 Authority may decide.

MATCH RELATED RULES

18. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

(A) A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has registered through the FA Player Registration System. Clubs must access the Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process in line with FA regulations

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

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

(B) 1. Contract Players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under contract with the same Club who have a Team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System, or Tiers 1-4 of the Women's Pyramid System.

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

2. A Player registered with a Premier League or EFL Academy under the Elite Player Performance Plan contained within Youth Development Rules will not be permitted to play in this Competition, except for those in the under 11 age-group and below where consent has been given by the relevant Premier League or EFL (such consent can be withdrawn at any time). Trial players are not considered to be registered with a Premier League or EFL Academy for these purposes and therefore the prohibition on playing in the Competition does not apply to them. The relevant Premier League/EFL Academy remains responsible for managing the frequency of the player's playing time. Details of the Youth Development Rules are published on The FA website. A Player registered with an FA Emerging Talent Centre or an FA Professional Game Academy may play in this Competition subject to the FA Girls' Emerging Talent Centre Operating Criteria and Professional Game Academy Youth Development Rules.

3. Each Team must have the following number of Players registered by midnight the Thursday before the start of each Playing Season:

FORMAT	MINIMUM NUMBER
3v3	3
5v5	5
7v7	7
9v9	9
11v11	11

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

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

The relevant age for each Player is determined by their age as at midnight on **31st August** of the relevant Playing Season i.e. children who are aged 6 as at midnight on **31st 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 **31st 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 their 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 **31st August** is permitted to play only in the Under 7 age group, and may not play in the Under 8 age group, for that Playing Season. Girls in all female Teams may also be permitted to play an age group down in accordance with Rule 4(F).

The age groups that children are eligible to play in are set out in the table below, subject to Rule 4(F), along with the permitted football formats for each of those age groups. For the purposes of this Rule 18(C), provisions relating to playing in specified age groups shall include participating in training as well as playing in matches. Children shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match between sides of more than the stated number of players, according to their age group:

Age on 31st August of the relevant Playing Season	Eligible Age Groups	Maximum Permitted Format	Minimum Pitch Sizes		Maximum Pitch Sizes		Recommended Goal Sizes in feet	Ball Size
			Yards	Metres	Yards	Metres		
6	Under 7	3v3	-	15 x 10	-	20 x 15	4 x 2.5	3
	Under 8	5v5	30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	3
7	Under 8	5v5	30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	3
	Under 9		30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	3
8	Under 9	5v5	30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	3
	Under 10	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
9	Under 10	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
	Under 11		50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
10	Under 11	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
	Under 12	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
11	Under 12	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
	Under 13		70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
12	Under 13	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
	Under 14	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7*	5
13	Under 14	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7*	5

	Under 15		90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	24 x 8*	5
14	Under 15	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	100.58 x 64	24 x 8*	5
	Under 16		90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
15	Under 16	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
	Under 17		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5
	Under 18		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5
16	Under 17	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5
	Under 18		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5
	Open Age		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5

* At Under 14 age group, 21x7 is recommended but 24x8 is also permitted.
* At Under 15 age group, 24x8 is recommended but 21x7 is also permitted.

(D) RULE NOT USED IN THIS COMPETITION

(E) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes taking into account the following.

1. A Player shall not be permitted to register for more than one Club subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18(E).3 below.
2. In the event of a Player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club, in the Competition the valid registration submitted first shall take precedence. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the Player of the fact of the previous registration subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18 (E).3 below.
3. A Player is only permitted to register for more than one Club provided that:
   a. The Team(s) in which the Player plays in are not in the same age group; or
   b. Except for the purpose of a transfer.

And the Player meets the requirements in Rule 18(C).

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

1. From U10 upwards to play for more than one Team in the same age group in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.
2. Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season, except if the provisions set out in Rule 18 (E).3 apply, or where the Competition adopts Rule 18(P).
3. Submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through the Player Registration System for registration that the Player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

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

(G) 1. The Management Committee shall accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rule 18(G).2 and 3. below.

U7-U9 can be registered to all teams in the same age group.

2. The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player, the exercise of such power being without prejudice to the Management Committee's ability to fine a Club at its discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) that has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).
3. The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. Where the Management Committee does not have enough information to enable it to make a decision pursuant to the above power, it may apply, in its absolute discretion, to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA for further information.

Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.

4. For a Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18(G)3. but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

(Note: Action under Rule 18(G).3 shall only be taken against a Player in cases of the Player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any event be subject to an appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. All decisions must include the period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the Player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in any competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.)

(H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C, when a Club wishes to register a Player who is already registered with another Club it shall submit a transfer form (in a format as determined by the Competition) to the Competition accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fees Tariff.

Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the Club for which the Player is registered. Should this Club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the Player concerned within 3 days of receipt of the notification.

Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the Player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or 3 days after receipt of such transfer.

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

(I) A Player who has not played any games in any League in England in the preceding 12 months may be registered for a Club in the Competition at any point in the season.

Subject to squad places being available as per Rule 18(S), a Player whose Team at a member Club has folded may be transferred to another Team at the same Club or to a Team at another Club in the Competition at any point in the current Playing Season. Any other Player may only be registered for a Club or transferred to another Club in the Competition after **midnight the last Thursday in February** with special permission of the Management Committee.

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

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

(K) A register containing the names of all Players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the (Registrations) Secretary under The FA Club Portal. Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.
In the event of a Non Contract Player changing their status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a club in another competition their registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18(B).1.

(L) A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in Rule 22(A)) unless the Player has played 3 Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.

(M) RULE NOT USED IN THIS COMPETITION

(N) 1. Subject to Rule 18(N).2, any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition Match or Matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Competition Match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points and have levied upon it a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

2. The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18(N).1 only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.

3. Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18(N).1 above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion, or order one or more of the following:

a. Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed.

b. Deduct points from the record of Club in default up to a maximum of 3 points; and/or

c. Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

(O) (The following clause applies to Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary education):- 1.

Priority must be given at all times to the activities of schools and school organisations.

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

2. The availability of children must be cleared with their head teacher (except for Sunday league competitions).

3. A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on **31st August** in the relevant Playing Season, shall not be permitted to play in a Competition Match during that Playing Season where any other Player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.

(P) Any Club wishing to de register a player may do so via The FA Club Portal.

(Q) Players U10 upwards will be permitted to be registered to 2 age groups within the same Club, but only 1 Team per age group, providing they are eligible. The Players' registration in both Teams will count towards the maximum squad size allowed. No Player can play for more than 1 Team in any Competition Match on any match day.

(R) The maximum number of Players registered per Team shall not exceed 22 Players at any one time and 20 Players for 9v9. For the Under-18 age group, the maximum number of Players a Team may sign is increased to 25. In the event of a Player leaving a Club but not transferring to another within the Competition, then the Team manager is advised to de-register that Player.

(S) It will be the duty of the member Clubs having a Player, Players or any Club Official suspended by their Affiliated Association to notify at once the Secretary, together with the actual inclusive dates covered by such suspension.

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

NOTE: Any suspension of a Player MUST commence 7 days after a sending-off, even if the Club has not received the paperwork from the Sanctioning Authority.

(T) The registration deadline after the first weekend's fixtures will be weekly on Thursdays at midnight for the Players to be eligible to play in that following weekend's fixture.

19. CLUB COLOURS

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

(B) Any Team wishing to change the colour(s) and/or design(s) of its shirt(s) and short(s) during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Management Committee in advance of making that change.

(C) Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials. (D) No Player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.

(E) Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeeper jersey) at least 5 days before the Competition Match.

(F) If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the away Team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick-off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(G) Shirts must all be numbered differently, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(H) Names of Youth Players names shall not appear on the shirts, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

20. PLAYING SEASON, CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK OFF, POSTPONEMENTS, SUBSTITUTES

(A) All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board or, for Mini-Soccer, The Mini-Soccer and Youth Futsal Handbook, or, for 9v9 football, The FA's Guide to 9v9 Football.

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

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

Artificial Football Turf Pitches (3G) are allowed in this Competition provided they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches- https://footballfoundation.org.uk/3g-pitch register. All Football Turf Pitches used must be tested (by a FIFA accredited test institute) every three years and the results passed to The FA. The FA will

give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.

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

Overhead netting is allowed for 3v3, 5v5 and 7v7 mini soccer if the overhead netting height is at a minimum of 6m. No overhead netting is allowed for 9v9 and 11v11 affiliated matches.

Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are ideally removed for affiliated matches but if they cannot be removed then discretion is given to the match official to restart the match in accordance of the Laws of the Game.

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

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

Age Group	Minimum Duration of play per quarter (minutes) (Mini Soccer	Maximum Duration of play per quarter (minutes) (Mini Soccer only)	Minimum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all organised development fixtures (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all tournaments and trophy events/festivals (minutes)	Competition structure
Under 7 Note: 3v3 matches should each last 6-10 minutes no breaks.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	40	60	Development focused with no trophy events.
Under 8 and Under 9	5	10	10	20	40	60	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 2 week periods (12 weeks)
Under 10 and Under 11	10	12.5	20	25	60	90	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 4 week periods (12 weeks)
Under 12 and Under 13	N/A	N/A	20	30	80 (if applicable)	120	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 14 and Under 15	N/A	N/A	25	35	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 16	N/A	N/A	25	40	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table

Under 17 and Under 18	N/A	N/A	25	45	120	180	Any varieties including one season long league table

Competition Matches for age groups from U8 to U11 can be played in either quarters or halves. This Competition uses halves .

For round robin/trophy events, the maximum duration of play per half cannot be exceeded, but the minimum duration of play per half may be adjusted.

For trophy events, the Competition may award mementos.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs prior to the scheduled date of the Competition Match with written notification given to the Competition at least 6 days prior. For matches played on Saturday or Sunday the kick off times must be inserted by the home Club on Full time by 9.00pm the Monday prior to the scheduled match, for midweek fixtures this must be done 5 days prior to the scheduled match.

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

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

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

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

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

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

However, no game shall be imposed on the away side that would involve them leaving prior to 8.00am on the morning of the game, allowing for normal journey conditions and a 30-minute warm-up period. The away Team shall advise the Fixture Secretary in the event of a kick-off time being set too early and the away Team should liaise with the home Team to arrange a suitable kick off time, in the case of the two Teams not mutually agreeing the Management Committee will decide the kick off time.

Teams may agree early kick off times.

(C) An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground time of kick-off and kit colours (including goalkeeper) to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least 5 clear days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. The opposing Club must confirm receipt and give notice of its kit colours (including goalkeeper) at least 3 days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. If either is not provided, the relevant Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition.

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

(D) The minimum number of Players that will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is as follows:

FORMAT	MINIMUM NUMBER
3v3	2
5v5	4
7v7	5
9v9	6
11v11	7

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

(E) 1. In competitions where points are awarded, home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall decide whether it should either:

a. award the points from the Competition Match in question to the Club's opponent (without the awarding of goals)

Or

b. order the Competition Match to be rescheduled. The Management Committee shall also have the power to order the rescheduled Competition Match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent Club's Ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18(N)1. above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion:

In addition, the Management Committee may at its discretion order one or more of the following (if appropriate):

a. impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff),

b. deduct points from the defaulting Club,

c. order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents.

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

If the home Team anticipates that they are unable to fulfill a Competition Match (e.g adverse match conditions) the home Team must, by the latest the day before the fixture, also contact the away Team to see if the game can be reversed. No reasonable offer of a reversal may be refused. If there is any possible doubt about the playability of the pitch surface for a fixture, a pitch inspection must be undertaken and the result of this must be communicated to the referee and the travelling Team a minimum of 30 minutes before one could judge they would be due to leave home.

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

3. In the event of a Competition Match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixtures Secretary within 5 days the Management Committee shall have the power to order the Competition Match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand.

4. The Management Committee shall review all Competition Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a Competition Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the Competition Match to the opponent. In cases where a Competition Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Competition Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Competition Match.

5. The Management Committee shall review any Competition Match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by The FA or Affiliated Association. In each case the Team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 18(N).1 above. Where both Teams were under suspension the Competition Match must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

6. If a Competition Match is abandoned, each participating Club~~s~~ must give notice of the abandonment to the relevant Competition Fixtures Secretary by the deadline set out in Rule 21(B).

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

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

This Competition allows return substitutes:

For Under 12s - Under 18s, – a Club may use up to 5 from 5 substitute Players. A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace any Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of The Game.

For Mini-Soccer– with the exception of 3v3 , any number of substitutions may be used at any time with the permission of the

referee. Entry onto the field of play will only be allowed during a stoppage in play. A Player who has been replaced may return to play as a substitute for another Player. A Team must not have a match day squad greater than double the size of its Team in an age group.

In Youth Football only, the referee shall be informed of the names of the substitute Players not later than 10 minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match.

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

(G) The half time interval shall be of 10 minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

(H) The Teams taking part in Under 7s to Under 11 or Youth Football shall identify a Team captain who may/shall wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of their Teammates.

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

(I) Where a suspension imposed in relation

1. a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations); or

2. The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children or Regulations for Safeguarding Adults at Risk (I) upon a Club or Team by The FA or Affiliated Association is not lifted, and/or the Club does not provide confirmation from The FA or Affiliated Association that such suspension is lifted to the Competition Secretary by 21:00 *2* days before a fixture, that fixture will be treated as an unfulfilled fixture and dealt with in accordance with Rule 20(E).1.

(J) Teams may on 2 occasions, one prior to Christmas, and one after Christmas (excluding Easter Sunday and the Sunday after Christmas, which shall be automatically free of cast fixtures) during the current Playing Season request release from fixtures on specific dates by writing to the Fixtures Secretary at least 14 days prior to the requested date. Each application will be treated on merit and whilst every consideration will be given, it does not follow that automatic release from a fixture will be granted. The deadline for such requests will be the last day in February.

(K) DOUBLE-HEADER AND MIDWEEK FIXTURES - When extreme fixture backlogs occur, the Fixtures Secretary in consultation with the Management Committee will have the power to implement double-headers if Teams have not already met. Double Headers, where arranged, shall be played as two separate matches (and therefore incur 2 match fees for referees) following one another with a 10-minute break as follows:

Under-12 to Under-14 - 20 minutes each way in each match
Under-15 to Under-18 - 25 minutes each way in each match
Points will be awarded separately for each match in the normal way. A separate match return must be completed for each match. The match referee is entitled to a separate fee for each of the matches played within a double-header, the payment of which should be made in accordance with the relevant single fixtures.

The home Team for each fixture shall be determined from the fixtures list. The venue for the double-header shall be determined by each side as much as possible. In the event that Teams cannot agree, the matter shall be referred to the Fixtures Secretary no later than 5 days prior to the assigned date. When reporting the result, the home Team for each game needs to report their own result. If reporting both results, please ensure that it is clear which Team is reporting the results.

The date, time and venue for a midweek fixture shall be determined by each side as much as possible. It is not intended to assign dates on Teams in order to allow flexibility in pitch availability. In the event that Teams cannot agree, the matter shall be referred to the Fixtures Secretary with a list of at least five dates that the Team is available. The Fixtures Secretary shall then cast the fixture in order to ensure that the game is fulfilled.

(L) Immediately prior to the pre-match handshake before commencement of every Under U10 to Under-18 Competition Match, the Team Squad Sheet of Players, including substitutes named to the referee, must be made available for inspection by an opposing Club official and/or a member of the League Management Committee, if in attendance, in or around the centre circle.

If a Team does not produce its Squad Sheet prior to the commencement of the match, the referee must be informed and the match will be regarded as an unfulfilled fixture in accordance with Rule 20E.1.

If a Squad List cannot be produced for any individual Player or Players, they shall not be eligible to play in the match. Therefore, a Team having played a Player or Players without a Squad List being produced will be dealt with under Competition Rule 18N.1.

For U7-U9, Squad Lists are not required to be produced.

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

(M) **DUGOUTS, TECHNICAL AREA AND SPECTATORS' AREA**: The technical area can be marked by an additional painted line, the use of cones, a roped off area. Only two persons at a time shall occupy the technical area; only one person at a time has the authority to convey technical instructions to Players during a Competition Match from within the technical area. Substitutes will stand behind the technical area. All other management Team members will stand on the opposite side of the pitch.

All those that are in or behind the technical area shall wear tops of a distinctly different colour than their Players shirts. The wearing of suitably coloured bibs is acceptable in this regard.

Any non-playing individual removed from the technical area by the referee must go to the opposite side of the ground furthest from the technical area for the remainder of the match and must not re-enter the field of play at the end of the match. The individual must not influence the game by speaking (e.g. telephone, mobile or texting) to the remaining members in the technical area or to a member of the management team who is watching the match.

Failure to have any provision will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

The host Club shall make arrangements for the provision of 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 the side of the pitch that is opposite to the technical areas. The spectator area should run the full length of the pitch. It is recognized however that the alignment of some public pitches does not allow for this arrangement in which case other appropriate arrangements should be made.

Failure to have any provision will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

21. REPORTING RESULTS

(A) The Fixtures Secretary must receive within 5 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 23, or any other information required by the Competition.
Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) The home Club shall use telephone/SMS/email/FA Full Time as directed by the Competition to notify the result of each Competition Match to the relevant Fixtures Secretary by midnight on the day of the fixture. Evening matches that conclude after 18.00 hrs shall be reported before 18.00 hrs the following day.

© RULE NOT USED IN THIS COMPETITION

(D) The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect but NOT publish results or any grading tables for fixtures involving Under 7s, Under 8s, Under 9s, Under 10s, and Under 11s. Any Competition failing to abide by this Rule will be dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and any Club failing to abide by this Rule will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff). The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect and publish results for trophy events.

22. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

(A) In Competitions where points are awarded, Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Competition Match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners. Competition Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings may be determined by a deciding match or matches played under conditions determined by the Management Committee, or the position shared.

(B) RULE NOT USED IN THIS COMPETITION

(C) RULE NOT USED IN THIS COMPETITION

(D) In the event of a Team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing Season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Team shall be expunged from the Competition table. For the purposes of this Rule 22(D) a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee.

23. MATCH OFFICIALS

(A) Registered referees (and assistant referees where approved by The FA or County FA) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.

(B) In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any open age competition and individuals under the age of 14 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match. Referees between the ages of 14 and 16 are only eligible to officiate in competitions where the Players' age band is at least one year younger than the age of the referee, for example a 15 year old referee may only officiate in competitions where the age banding is 14 or younger.

(C) Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee.

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) being imposed on the defaulting Club.

(D) The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final, subject to the determination of the Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, which must be accepted.

(E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff inclusive of travel expenses.

Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the home Club before/immediately after the Competition Match, unless otherwise ordered by the Management Committee.

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

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

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

(G) A referee not keeping their engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which they are registered.

(H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the referee for each Competition Match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided.

Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) 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 FA/County FA.

(J) RULE NOT USED IN THIS COMPETITION

(K) Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge. (L) Match

Officials shall have undertaken a RESPECT briefing offered by The FA/County FA or the Competition.

LOCAL RULES

24. FULL LEAGUE MEETINGS

In addition to the AGM, and any SGM that may be called, there shall be two Full League Meetings annually. 14 days' notice shall be given of either meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meetings. Each Member Club shall be empowered to send any number of delegates to all Full League Meetings. Each Club will be entitled to one vote only. Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote and all Full League Meetings. All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least 51% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

Any Club failing to be represented at a Full League Meeting shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

25. LIFE MEMBERS

Any Officer having completed five years' service to the Competition shall be eligible to be proposed by the Management Committee for Life Membership at the AGM. Life Members shall have the privilege to receive notice of and to attend General Meetings and Management Committee meetings in an advisory capacity but shall not have voting powers.

26. VICE PRESIDENTS

The Management Committee or member Clubs may propose the election as Vice President for Life Membership of any person who has served or otherwise supported the Competition in an exceptional manner. All such proposals shall be considered at an AGM. A proposal from a Club must be in writing and supported by another Club. Vice Presidents shall have the privilege to receive notice of and to attend General Meetings but shall not have voting powers.

27. SPONSORSHIP

The Management Committee or member Clubs may propose the election as Vice President for Life Membership of any person who has served or otherwise supported the Competition in an exceptional manner. All such proposals shall be considered at an AGM. A proposal from a Club must be in writing and supported by another Club. Vice Presidents shall have the privilege to receive notice of and to attend General Meetings but shall not have voting powers.

28. MINI SOCCER ALLIANCE

(A) All Player registrations will be via the Player Registration System.

(B) At each venue, U8-U9 fixtures should ideally be played simultaneously on 2 pitches.

(C) Fixtures will be organized as set out for each age group as advised before the start of each Playing Season. Fixtures will be organized to allow each Team to play as many other Clubs as possible within their age group or section. As a guide, fixtures will be organized 3 weeks for the Under-7's, every 2 weeks for the Under-8's, Under-9's and Under-10's.Weekly for U11. The Clubs will organize a mutually agreeable kick-off time although if there is any dispute the host Club will dictate. If Clubs cannot agree on a mutually agreeable time the fixture will be played as instructed by the Mini-Soccer Alliance Fixture Secretary and whose decision is binding on both Clubs. The host Club must give a minimum of five days' notice to the visiting Club of the venue and start time of the fixture.

(D) Under 7's Under 8's and under 9's may re- arrange fixtures by mutual consent as long as they inform the fixtures secretary. Under 10 and upwards must play fixtures as scheduled or may be subject to a fine under the Fines schedule

(E) All fines for Mini-Soccer matches are half the fine stipulated within the Fines Tariff for the 9 or 11 a side Competition, with the exception of those relating to Match Returns or Player Registrations.

(F) For the purposes of the Competition, a pair of fixtures at each venue will amount to a single fixture for the purpose of any fines being levied.

(G) Where three Teams are appointed to a fixture, the single Team shall play each of the paired Teams. Where two Teams are appointed to a fixture, then they shall play each other in a pair of fixtures. However, the Teams shall also be prepared to fulfil a fixture in a foursome, in the event of another pair of Teams not being available.

SCHEDULE A

FEES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4(A)	CLUB ENTRY FEE	£50.00
4(B)	TEAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£150.00
4(C)	FAILURE TO PAY DEPOSIT	£100.00
7(C)	PROTEST FEES	£25.00
11(A)	LATE ENTRY FEE	£100.00
18(H)	TRANSFER FEE	£10.00
23(E)	REFEREE FEES Under 18 Under 15/16 Under 14 Under 12/13 Under 11	 £45 £40 £35 £30 £20 All the above are inclusive of any travel expenses

23(E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES WHERE LEAGUE APPOINTED Under 18 Under 15/16 Under 14 Under 12/13 Under 11	 £40.00 £35.00 £30.00 £25.00 £25.00 All the above are inclusive of any travel expenses

FINES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	**DESCRIPTION**	**MAXIMUM FEE**
2(I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£100.00
2(K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£100.00
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£30.00
4(C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£100.00
4(D)	FAILURE TO PAY ENTRY FEES, SUBSCRIPTIONS OR DEPOSITS BY START OF PLAYING SEASON	£100.00
4(E)	FAILURE TO ENSURE TEAMS ARE RECORDED AS AFFILIATED IN THE CLUB PORTAL	£100.00
5(E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£25.00
5(F)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CONTACT TIME RESTRICITIONS	£50.00
6(H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£100.00
6(I)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	Double the original fine up to £100.00
8(H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£100.00
9(E)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£100.00
10 (B)	FAILURE TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£25.00
11(A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£100.00
11(B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£100.00
16(C)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100.00
18(A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£40.00
18(B).3	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE PLAYING SEASON COMMENCING	£25.00
18(F)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF	£25.00
	A REGISTRATION FORM	
18(G).2	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£100.00
18(M)	NOT USED IN THIS COMPETITION	£00.00
18(N).1	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£100.00

18(O).1	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£50.00
18(S)	FAILURE TO NOTIFY SUSPENSION	£50.00
19(F)	DELAYING KICK OFF TO DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£30.00
19(G)	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS CORRECTLY	£10.00 (per shirt, up to an aggregate maximum of £30)
19(H)	HAVING PLAYERS NAMES ON SHIRTS	£50.00
20(A)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT	£30.00
20(B)	FAILURE TO PLAY OR REVERSE MATCH ON THE DATE FIXED	£100.00
20(C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£50.00
20(D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£100.00
20(E).1	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£100.00
20(E).6	FAILURE TO NOTIFY ABANDONMENT OF MATCH	£50.00
20(H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£10.00
20(L)	FAILURE TO PRODUCE SQUAD LIST	£50.00
20(M)	FAILURE TO HAVE ANY PROVISON FOR TECHNICAL AREA AND SPECTATOR AREA	£50.00
21(A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE MATCH REPORT IN THE REQUIRED TIME FRAME	£20.00
21(B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT IN THE REWUIRED TIME FRAME	£20.00
21(D)	PUBLISHING RESULTS/GRADING TABLES FOR FIXTURES INVOLVING U7S, U8S, U9S, U10S OR U11S	£50.00
23(C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£25.00
23(E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£25.00
23(F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£25.00
23(H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK ON MATCH REPORT	£25.00
24	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT FULL LEAGUE MEETING	£100.00

SCHEDULE B - INDEX

Rule 1	Definitions

GOVERNANCE RULES

Rule 2	Name and Constitution
Rule 3	Club Name
Rule 4	Entry Fee, Subscription, Deposit
Rule 5	Management, Nomination, Election
Rule 6	Powers of Management
Rule 7	Protests, Claims, Complaints, Appeals
Rule 8	Annual General Meeting
Rule 9	Special General Meetings
Rule 10	Agreement ~~to be Signed~~ **to Rules of the Competition**
Rule 11	Continuation of Membership, Withdrawal of a Club
Rule 12	Exclusion of Clubs, Teams. Misconduct of Clubs, Officers, Players, Management Committee
Rule 13	Trophy
Rule 14	Alteration to Rules
Rule 15	Finance
Rule 16	Insurance
Rule 17	Dissolution

MATCH RELATED RULES

Rule 18	Qualification of Players
Rule 19	Club Colours
Rule 20	Playing Season. Conditions of Play, Times of Kick-Off. Postponements. Substitutes
Rule 21	Reporting Results
Rule 22	Determining Championship
Rule 23	Match Officials

LOCAL RULES

Rule 24	Full League Meeting
Rule 25	Life Members
Rule 26	Vice Presidents
Rule 27	Sponsorship
Rule 28	Mini Soccer Alliance

SCHEDULE A

	Fees Tariff
	Fines Tariff