



Chester & District Junior Football League



Standard Code of Rules

Season 2017 - 2018

Chester & District Junior Football League

Mini Soccer & Youth Divisions

INTRODUCTION

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association and additions, for Youth Competitions.

Some additional League house keeping rules have also been added. It is important that all League Officials abide by these rules for the betterment of the competition.

Ignorance of our rules and regulations will not be accepted as a reasonable excuse.

C&DJFL Management Committee

01/08/2017

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STANDARD CODE OF RULES FOR MINI SOCCER AND YOUTH FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association, for Mini Soccer and Youth Football Competitions. Such Competitions may add to the core of the Standard Code, which is mandatory, providing the additions are approved by the sanctioning Association and do not conflict with the mandatory Rules or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA. Guidance from the sanctioning Association should be sought in advance if there is any doubt as to the acceptability of additional Rules.

This Standard Code of Rules is mandatory for all Mini Soccer and Youth Football Competitions. Mini Soccer and Youth Football Competitions seeking sanction must draft their Rules in conformity with the code putting them in the correctly numbered Rule and showing the standard heading. The mandatory element is printed in normal text and the optional elements in italics.

It should be noted that in many cases Rules are so printed because they are alternatives and the procedure to apply should be retained and the others omitted. In all cases where a line is shown the necessary name, address, number or wording to complete this Rule must be inserted.

DEFINITIONS

1. (A) In these Rules:

"Affiliated Association" means an Association accorded the status of an affiliated Association under the Rules of The FA.

"AGM" shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

"Club" means a Club for the time being in membership of the Competition.

"Competition" means the Freedom Chester & 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.

"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.

"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 10s.

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

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

"Participants" means an Affiliated Association, Competition, Club, Club Official, Intermediary, Player, Official, Match Official, Management Committee member, member or employee of an Affiliated Club and all

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such persons who are from time to time participating in any activity sanctioned either directly or indirectly by the Association.

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

"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 FA and the Cheshire County Football Association Limited.

"Scholarship" means a Scholarship as set out in Rule C 3 (a) (i) of the Rules of The FA.

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

"Team" means a team affiliated to a Club.

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

"The FA" means The Football Association Limited.

"WGS" means the Whole Game System and the procedures for the operation thereof as determined by the FA from time to time.

"written" or **"in writing"** means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

"Youth Football" means those participating at ages under 11s to under 18s.

- (B) 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.
- (CB) 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 16.
- (DC) The Competition will be known as the Freedom Chester & District Junior Football League and known as The FC&DJFL Competition, FC&DJFL Knockout Cup and FC&DJFL Subsidiary Shield. 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.
- (ED) 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.
- (FE) 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.

NAME AND CONSTITUTION

2. (A) This Competition shall consist of not more than 32 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (B) All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff). The area covered by the Competition membership shall be Chester and all outlying area within a 20 mile radius.

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This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Cheshire County Football Association and the constituent Teams of member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 12 in number.

(C) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

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

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

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

(D) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including but not limited to, Charter Standard and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

(E) Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing at a particular age group in the Competition in any other competition (with the exception of FA and County FA Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

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

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

3. (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an entry fee £0.00 set out in the Fees Tariff per Team which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

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

(B) An annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club and shall be payable on or before 31st July in each year.

(C) A deposit of £50.00 shall be payable per Team where a Club provides more than one Team in membership of the Competition 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 entry fee, annual subscription and Deposit (if required) have been paid.

(E) If requested by the Competition, Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 31st August of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season, failing which they shall be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

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.

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

4. (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and members who shall all be elected at the AGM. All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The FA from time to time.

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- (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 14th May in each year.
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 1st 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).

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

5. (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 apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).
In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
- (D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.
With the exception of Rules 5(I), 6(H) and 19, and in relation to any alleged breaches of a Rule the Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged is required to respond to the charge within 7 days from the date of notification of the charge. In such reply a Club may:-
- (i) Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
 - (ii) Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
 - (iii) Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
 - (iv) Deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee.

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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, 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 16.

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 10 days.

(F) 6 of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof.

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

(H) A Club 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 its right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16 below, all fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting 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 sum 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 match may have any expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.

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

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6. (A) The AGM shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 6 members are present and entitled to vote:-

- (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding AGM.
- (ii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
- (iii) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
- (iv) Constitution of the Competition for ensuing Playing Season.
- (v) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
- (vi) Appointment of Auditors.
- (vii) Alteration of Rules, if any (See Rule 20).

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- (viii) Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
 - (ix) Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season.
 - (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.
- (B) A copy of the duly audited/verified 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 changes.
- (C) A signed copy of the duly audited/verified 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 Meeting.
- (E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Playing Season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 17.
- (F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.
- (G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one member Club.
- (H) 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).
- (I) Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM.
- (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.

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

7. Each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the application for membership for the coming Playing Season, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.

"We, (A), (name) of (address) (Chairman)/Director and (B) (name) of (address) (Secretary/Director) of Football Club (Limited) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the 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."

The agreement shall be signed by:

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

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

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

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

8. (A)(i) A registered youth playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:-
- (a) Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by his /her parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the (Registrations) Secretary 7 days prior to the player playing and whose completed registration counterfoil has been received by the Club prior to playing. The registration document must incorporate emergency contact details of the Player's parents or guardians. These details must be available at matches and training events the Player attends within the management of the Club or Competition.

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or

(c) Registered through WGS.

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

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

(ii) Registration forms may also be submitted to the (Registrations) Secretary by electronic mail or facsimile machine prior to the Player playing. The original document must be forwarded by post within three days of the match to the appropriate Officer. The registration document must incorporate a current passport-size photograph of the Player seeking registration together with confirmation that the Player's proof of date of birth has been checked by the Club and is accurate.

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

(B)(i) 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.

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.

(ii) A Player registered with a Premier League or Football League Academy under the Elite Player Performance Plan contained within Youth Development Rules will not be permitted to play in this Competition. Details of the Youth Development Rules are published on The FA website. A Player registered with a FA Girls' Regional Talent Club may play in this Competition subject to the FA Programme for Excellence (Female) Regulations.

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

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

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 his or her age as at midnight on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season i.e. children who are aged 6 as at midnight on 31 August in a Playing Season (together with those who attain the age of 6 during the Playing Season) will be classed as Under 7 Players for that Playing Season. Children who are aged 7 as at midnight on 31 August in a Playing Season will be classed as Under 8 Players for that Playing Season, and so on.

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Notwithstanding the above, a child is permitted to play up in the age group above his or her chronological age group, irrespective of any changes of format or competition structure, save that a child who attains the age of 6 after 31 August is permitted to play only in the Under 7 age group, and may not play in the Under 8 age group, for that Playing Season.

The age groups that children are eligible to play in are set out in the table below, along with the permitted football formats for each of those age groups. Children shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match between sides of more than the stated number of players, according to their age group:

Age on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season	Eligible Age Groups	Maximum Permitted Format	Minimum Pitch Sizes		Maximum Pitch Sizes		Recommended Goal Sizes in feet	Ball Size
			Yards	Metres	Yards	Metres		
6	Under 7	5v5	30x20	27.45 x 18.3	40x30	36.3 x 27.45	12x6	3
	Under 8		30x20	27.45 x 18.3	40x30	36.3 x 27.45	12x6	3
7	Under 8	5v5	30x20	27.45 x 18.3	40x30	36.3 x 27.45	12x6	3
	Under 9	7v7	50x30	45.75 x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	3
8	Under 9	7v7	50x30	45.75 x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	3
	Under 10		50x30	45.75 x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	4
9	Under 10	7v7	50x30	45.75 x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	4
	Under 11	9v9	70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
10	Under 11	9v9	70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
	Under 12		70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
11	Under 12	9v9	70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
	Under 13	11v11	90x50	82.3x45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
12	Under 13	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
	Under 14		90x50	82.3 x 45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
13	Under 14	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
	Under 15		90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
14	Under 15	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
	Under 16		90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5

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15	Under 16	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
	Under 17		100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
	Under 18		100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
16	Under 17	11v11	100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
	Under 18		100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
	Open Age		100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5

(D) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered, if applicable.

(E) 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 Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the Player of the fact of the previous registration.

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

- (i) Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.
- (ii) Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season, except for the purpose of a transfer.
- (iii) Submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through WGS 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)(i) The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of clauses (ii) and (iii) below.

(ii) The Management Committee shall have 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 16).

(iii) The Management Committee shall also have the power to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct, such refusal or cancellation being subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority. Where the Management Committee does not have enough information to enable it to make a decision pursuant to the above power, it may apply, in its absolute discretion, to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA for further information.

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

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

(Note: Action under Clause (iii) shall 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.)

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(H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C 2(a) 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 7 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 7 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 14 days after receipt of such transfer.

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

(I) A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 31st January except by special permission of the Management Committee.

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

In the event a Club has more than one Team in an age group, each Team 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 his Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 8(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 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 Playing Season only.

In the event of a Non Contract Player changing his status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a Club in another Competition his registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 8(B)(i).

(L) A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 12(A)) unless the Player has played 3 League games for that Team in this Competition in the current Playing Season.

(M) (i) Subject to Rule 8(M)(ii), any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a match or matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that 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).

(ii) The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 8(M)(i) only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where

(a) the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.

(iii) Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible player in accordance with Rule 8(M)(i) above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion:

(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) Levy penalty points against the Club in default; or

(c) Order that such match or matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

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

(N)(i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

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- (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with the head teachers (except for Sunday Competitions).
- (iii) A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August in a Playing Season, shall not be permitted to play in a Competition Match during that Playing Season where any other Player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.

CLUB COLOURS. CLUB NAME

9. (A) Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by the Annual General Meeting who shall decide as to their suitability.

Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from other Players and the Match Officials.

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

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

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 shall be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff). Shirts must be numbered.

- (B) Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority and from the Management Committee. Any Club wishing to change its colours during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY

TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES

10. (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, and 9v9 football, the Rules as set down by The FA.

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 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 matches in the Competition and to order the Club concerned to play its fixtures on another ground.

Football Turf Pitches are allowed in this Competition. All Football Turf Pitches used must be on The FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches and must be tested (by an accredited test institute) every 3 years and the results passed to The FA. The FA will give a decision on the suitability for use and add the pitch to the Register.

The home Club is also responsible for advising Participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 10(C).

All 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 match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

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

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Age Group	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 and Under 8	10	20	40	60	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 2 week periods (6 weeks)
Under 9 and Under 10	20	25	60	90	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 4 week periods (12 weeks)
Under 11	20	30	80	120	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 6 week periods (18 weeks)
Under 12	20	30	80 (if applicable)	120	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 13 and Under 14	25	35	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 15 and Under 16	25	40	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 17 and Under 18	25	45	120	180	Any varieties including one season long league table

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 match with written notification given to the Secretary at least 4 days prior.

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

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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 Secretary 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 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 match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).

- (C) An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the group and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and the secretary of the opposing Club at least 7 clear days prior to the playing of the match. If not so provided, the away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

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

FORMAT	MINIMUM NUMBER
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)(i) In Competitions where points are awarded home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have the power to impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff), deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's Ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.
- (ii) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a fixture 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.
- (iii) In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixtures Secretary within 7 days the Management Committee shall have the power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand.

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

- (iv) 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

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either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponent. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

(v) The Management Committee shall review any match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by The 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 8(M)(i) above. Where both Teams were under suspension the match must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

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

Where a Competition does not allow return substitutes:

For Under 17s and Under 18s – up to 5 may be selected from 5 substitute Players.

Where a Competition does allow repeat substitutes:

For Under 11s - Under 16s – up to 5 may be selected from 5 substitute Players.

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

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

In Youth Football only, the referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than 15 minutes before the start of the match and a Player not so named may not take part in 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.

(G) The half time interval shall be of 5 minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the Match Officials.

(H) The Teams taking part in under 7s to under 11s 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 his/her team-mates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

REPORTING RESULTS

11.(A) The Fixtures 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 (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

(B) The Home Club/both Clubs shall telephone/SMS/email/notify the result of each match to the Press Secretary within 3 hours of the game being completed in the prescribed manner. Clubs in default shall be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

(C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Club, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to do so will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

(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

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accordance with the Fines Tariff). The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect and publish results for trophy events.

- (E) The Competition may require a Club to confirm that a set fixture has been played. A fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) may be imposed for a breach of this Rule.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

- 12.(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 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 the event of two or more Teams being equal on points Team rankings may be determined by deciding match(es) played under conditions determined by the Management Committee, or the position shared.

- (B) Automatic promotion shall be applied for the first 2 Teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last 2 Teams in each division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of rule 2 (B).

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

(ii) Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the Playing Season may be filled in any of the following ways:

- (a) retention of otherwise relegated Team(s);
- (b) additional promotion of the next ranked Team(s) from the division below; or
- (c) election

(iii) The last 1 Team in the lowest division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of paragraph (B)(i) above.

(iv) Should either or both of the leading Teams in any of the divisions have a Team in the next higher division, promotion shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next highest Team or Teams in the division concerned.

(v) Should either or both of the relegated Teams in any of the divisions have a Team in the next lower division, relegation shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next lowest Team or Teams in the division concerned.

- (DC) 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 12 (D) a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee.

REFEREES

- 13.(A) Registered referees (and assistant referees where approved by The FA or County FA) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Association(s).
- (B) In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 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. 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 do so will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) being imposed on the defaulting Club.

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- (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.
- (E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Association, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid their fees and expenses in accordance with the Fees Tariff.
Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the home Club 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 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 match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee and expenses. Failure to comply with the Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).
- (G) A referee not keeping his or her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Association with which he or she is registered.
- (H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the referee for each 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 Playing Season, shall submit a summary to The FA/County FA.
- (J)
- (K) Match Officials shall be supplied, each Playing 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 League.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

- 14.(A) Any Club wishing to resign from the Competition must do so at least 21 days before the AGM. Failure to do so 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) In addition to the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 5(I), in the event of a member Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee are empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

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 or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.
(ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the match.
- (B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (as set out more fully at Rule 15(A) above) (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within 5 days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

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- (C) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum of £25.00 in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.
- (D) All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.
- (i) All parties must have received 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
- (ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then they should forward a deposit of £25.00 and indicate such when forwarding the written response.
- (E) If so 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. Such determination shall be final and binding upon the parties concerned. The procedure for such determination shall be determined by the Management Committee.

APPEALS

16. (A) Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fees Tariff, which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the appeal must also be sent to the Secretary. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority, in such respect the Sanctioning Authority may (but is not obliged to):
- (i) Invite submissions by the parties involved;
- (ii) Convene a hearing to hear the appeal;
- (iii) Permit new evidence; or
- (iv) Impose deadlines as are appropriate.
- Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.
- (B) 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 AGM or Special General Meeting called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from further membership which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot.
- (B) At the AGM, 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 whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- (C) Any Officer or member of a Club proved guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a Player or Players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to 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.

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

18.(A) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy:-

“We A [name] and B [name], the Chairman and Secretary of -

_____, members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of _____ Cup or Trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the Cup or Trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before 31st March. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.”

Failure to comply will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

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

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

19. Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) 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 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.

Each member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Special General Meetings.

Any continuing member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

ALTERATION TO RULES

20. Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Association, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM 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 Playing Season.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31st March in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 14th April and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 30th April. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if two thirds of those present, entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

FINANCE

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

(B) All expenditure in excess of £250.00 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 31st May.

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

INSURANCE

22. (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 Association.

Failure to comply with Rule 22(A) or 22(B) will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

DISSOLUTION

- 23.(A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a Special General Meeting by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant Special General Meeting.
- (B) In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.
- (C) The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:
- (i) Any surplus assets, save for a Trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated

Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Association.

- (ii) If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a Trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the Donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Sanctioning Association may decide.

FEES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
3 (A)	ENTRY FEE	£00.00
3 (B)	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£20.00
3 (C)	DEPOSIT	£50.00
8 (D)	REGISTRATION FORM	£12.00 (per Player)
8 (H)	TRANSFER FORM	£6.00
13 (E)	REFEREE FEES	As agreed with Sanctioning Authority
13 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	As agreed with Sanctioning Authority
15 (C),16	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£25.00

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FINES TARIFF

RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2 (B)	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£100.00
2 (D)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£100.00
2 (E)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£100.00
3 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£100.00
3 (E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM	£100.00
4 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£25.00
5 (H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£100.00
5 (I)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN 14 DAYS OF NOTICE	DOUBLE THE ORIGINAL FINE UP TO £100.00
6 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£100.00
7	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£25.00
8 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£40.00
8 (B)(iii)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON COMMENCING	£25.00
8 (F)	SIGNING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£25.00
8 (G) (ii)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£100.00
8(M)(i)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£100.00
8 (N)(i)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£50.00
9 (A),10 (A)	DELAYING KICK OFF/NO NETS/ NO CORNER FLAGS	£30.00
9(A)	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£10.00 (per shirt, up to an aggregate maximum of £30)
9 (B)	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£30.00
10 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£100.00
10 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£50.00
10 (D)	FAILURE TO HAVE MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS THAT WILL CONSTITUTE A TEAM	£100.00
10 (E) (i) & (iii)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£100.00
10 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£10.00
11 (A) & 11 (C)	LATE TEAM SHEET	£20.00
11 (B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£20.00
11(D)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH RULE	£50.00
11(E)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH RULE	£20.00
13 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£25.00
13 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£25.00
13 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£25.00
13 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£25.00
14 (A)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH RULE	£100.00
14 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE OR COMPLETE FIXTURES	£100.00
18 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£25.00
19	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING	£100.00
22(A)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100.00
22(B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100.00

Chester & District Junior Football League

Mini Soccer & Youth Divisions

Appendix A / Supplementary House Keeping Rules

S1. CUP COMPETITION RULES (Youth Division)

- (A)** The following rules are applicable to all current Cup Competitions run by the Competition, namely the Freedom C&DJF Knockout Cup and Freedom C&DJFL Subsidiary Shield:
- (i) The entrance fee for the Freedom C&DJF Knockout Cup and Freedom C&DJFL Subsidiary Shield competition shall be included in the Annual Registration fee.
 - (ii) Any other Cup Competition run by the Competition shall be eligible to a further entrance fee to be determined by the Competition Committee.
 - (iii) It is mandatory for every member Club/Team to enter the Freedom C&DJF Knockout Cup.
 - (iv) Entry to the Freedom C&DJFL Subsidiary Shield and any other new Freedom Cup Competition run by the Competition Management Committee shall be by invitation only.
 - (v) The format of the competition shall be decided by the League Executive committee prior to the commencement of the season.
 - (vi) In all knockout stages the first team drawn out will be considered the home team.
 - (vii) The home team shall be responsible for providing a set of nets and corner flags that are suitable for the game to commence.
- (B)** The Referee's Match Fee shall be met by both participating teams and shall be paid 50% by each Club/Team. If Referee Assistants are appointed by the Competition Management Committee then that Committee will pay their match fees.
- (C)** The 'Kick Off' times for all preliminary rounds shall be set at 2:00pm with the exception of the semi-finals and Final matches, which shall be decided upon by the Competition Management Committee. Each of the Club Secretaries involved in semi-final matches will confirm the kick off times with the League Secretary **3** clear days prior to the scheduled games being played.
- (D)** In any knockout phase of the competition, if the scores remain level at the end of the game, 20 minutes extra time shall be played in two equal periods of 10 minutes. If no goal is scored during extra time, the winners will be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the Internal Board Decision contained in the Laws of Association Football.
- (E)** The dates and venues of all cup semi-finals and finals shall be set by the Competition Management Committee.
- (F)** No player may play in the cup competitions unless they have played a minimum of three games in the respective League for the participating team.
- (G)** All teams will abide by the playing area provided by the landlord of neutral grounds provided they have been approved by the league management committee prior to the fixture taking place.
- #### **S2. ADDITIONAL LEAGUE CUP COMPETITION (Youth Division)**
- (A)** The league management committee may at its discretion during the season invite clubs to take part in an additional cup competition. The format of the competition shall be decided by the league management committee prior to the commencement of the competition.
- #### **S3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY, FAILING TO FULFIL A FIXTURE, TROPHIES AND COVER ALL**
- (A)** (i) Players who are to be deemed as eligible must be registered for the Club concerned and played at least **Three League games** for that Club. **(Youth Division only).**

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(ii) A player shall not in the same season play for more than one competing Club in any Cup knockout Competition. **(Youth Division only).**

(iii) Any Club found to be playing an ineligible player shall be struck out of the competition and the match shall be rewarded to the opposing team.

(B) Any Club failing to fulfill a scheduled fixture without reasonable or satisfactory explanation to the Competition Management committee shall be struck from the relevant Cup Competition and may suffer a financial penalty at the discretion of the Competition Management Committee. **(Youth Division only).**

(C) The Competition Management Committee may supply 16 Individual Trophies for both teams **(Youth Division)** participating in the Final Tie, funds permitting. The Club/Team requesting those Trophies will meet the cost of any additional Trophies.

(D) The Competition Rulebook shall manage any matters not covered in the noted Cup Competition Rules in its entirety.

S4. REPRESENTATIVE MANAGERS AND TEAMS

(A) Only managers currently active within the League will be eligible to volunteer their services as a Representative Manager. All Representative Managers shall ensure that the players they chose, the assistants appointed and all supporters associated with their team conduct themselves in a manner that protects the good name and standing of the Competition. The safety and overall well being of the players in their charge shall be the primary responsibility of the Representative Manager.

(B) Only players registered to play in this competition may be selected to represent the competition. Circumstances permitting, selection of representative squads at all ages will be by trial game(s). The representative age group manager will decide the format.

S5. LEAGUE PROTOCOL

(A) **The Club Chairperson or Club Secretary** from each member Club must attend the League Committee meeting. If the Club's Chairperson or Club Secretary is unable to attend the meeting then an elected delegate from the member Club should attend. Advanced notice must be given to the League Secretary should the member Club's chairperson or secretary be unable to attend the League Meeting. A minimum fine of **£10.00** will be imposed on any Club that fails to comply with this rule.

(B) Any item for Any Other Business **(AOB)** at a League Committee meeting must be submitted to the League Secretary by email or post 7 days prior to the meeting it is intended to be discussed.

(C) The League Management Committee will **not** accept correspondence from officials, players or supporters of a Club unless that correspondence has been communicated to the League Secretary by the Club Secretary. All complaints/protests must be forwarded from the Club Secretary to the League Secretary within 5 days of the incident occurring. Any such complaint must be submitted in writing in duplicate and a fee of **£25.00** must be deposited with the League Secretary.

(D) Written notification of any fines/sanctions imposed on a Club will be sent to the Club Secretary. If a Club fails to pay the fine within 14 days of receipt of the notification then the fine will be increased by 50%. If the fine is not paid within 28 days then the League Management Committee will have the power to enforce further sanctions on the Club as they see fit. (Subject to an individual's right to appeal).

S6. PLAYER REGISTRATION

(A) Players will be required to register with this competition as follows:

(i) When a Player reaches one of the following key stages. These are at under 9s, 11s, 13s, 15s & 17s.

(ii) When a player registers with this competition for the first time outside those key stages shown above.

(B) On initial registration a player must provide a copy of his/her birth certificate or medical card.

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S7. DE-REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

- (A)** A Club wishing to de-register a player must complete the de-registration section of the League Administration Form. This must be counter signed by the player and his/her legal guardian. This form must be returned to the League Registration Secretary together with the Player's Passport and a **£6.00** Administration fee. No player will be allowed to then register for another Club in this competition until 21 days after the initial date of de-registration. (See FASCR 8K).
- (B)** Players wishing to de-register from a Club may do so freely if they are leaving the area and will no longer be able to play in this competition otherwise a **£6.00** administration fee must be paid.
- (C)** Any player who is de-registered from this League for a period of 60 days or more must re-register with the League before they can join a new Club/Team.

N/B The Player's Passport remains the property of this competition at all times and will be classed as void if defaced.

S8. CLOSED SEASON

The closed season as defined within The Football Association Handbook is the 1st till the 30th of June. A player can move freely between Clubs during this period. The Player's Passport must be returned to the Registration Secretary by a Club once it is established that the player in question has moved to another Club.

S9. CLOSED DATES (Competitive Leagues Only)

Apart from the Christmas and Easter Holidays all other dates will be considered as Open Dates (Christmas and Easter Holidays means the Holiday weekend itself and the following weekend). All teams will be given the opportunity to apply for one 'Closed Date' between 1st September and 31st December and one 'Closed Date' between 1st January and 31st March in each playing season. All requests must be submitted in writing at least 14 days prior to the required closed date to the Fixtures Secretary. The written request must also contain the names of those players unavailable to play. The only exemption to this rule will be School Commitments, whereby the League Secretary must receive a letter from the school containing the names of those players unavailable to play either 14 days prior or 7 days post the commitment.

S10. ADMINISTRATION

- (A)** Clubs must register their team details with the League Registration Secretary no later than 7 days before the start of the season in the prescribed manner. Clubs must register a minimum number of players as defined by 31st July in each year. Failing to do so may incur a fine of **£20.00**.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mini Soccer	u9s - u10s	5 players
<input type="checkbox"/>	Youth Division	u11s - u12s	6 players
<input type="checkbox"/>	Youth Division	u13s - u18s	11 players

The only exceptions will be Clubs joining this League after 31st July.

- (B)** In addition to FASCR 11A a Club failing to submit a correctly completed team sheet to the Registration Secretary or his/her assistant within 14 days may incur a fine and have 3 points deducted from their teams points total.
- (C)** Team Managers **must** exchange the Player Passports before the commencement of a fixture. The Team Sheet **must** show the starting eleven players and the five substitutes and handed over to the opposing team manager. Should this not occur ANY complaint about players, result or any other matter will be considered by the league management. Should a team refuse to hand over a team sheet that disciplinary action, such as dismissing team from the competition or the awarding of game to the opposing team could result.
- (D)** A fixture **must not** be played unless S10(c) is complied with. Neither team will have a right of complaint if they breach this rule.
- (E)** Officers of the League Executive may from time to time inspect a team's player passports, team sheets and team registration forms in order to ascertain that S10(c) is complied with.
- (F)** Any Club failing to comply with S10 (c) and (d) may be fined and/or dealt with at the discretion of the League Management Committee.

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S11. TEAM OFFICIALS

- (A)** All Club Managers, Coaches and Officials actively working with players in this competition must complete a CRB enhanced vetting form and return it to the Youth League Welfare Officer within 7 days of the commencement of the season or provide evidence to confirm that they have been positively vetted for that purpose to the Youth League Welfare Officer. They will be issued with a League Identification badge, which they must wear at all C&DJFL fixtures.
- (B)** All Team Managers must be responsible and over 18 years of age. They must have already attained or show proof that they are working towards the FA Level One Standard Coaching Certificate or its equivalent. The minimum qualification is a current Child Protection Certificate.
- (C)** The League Secretary must be notified immediately if there is any change to those Club officials shown in the Club data sheet.

S12. CHILD PROTECTION

- (A)** Each Club must nominate a member of their committee to act as a Child Welfare Officer (CWO). This person must have successfully completed or is prepared to attend a FA Safeguarding Children Course.
- (B)** The details of the nominated CWO must be forwarded to the competition's Youth League Welfare Officer at least **7 days** before the commencement of the season. Failure to do so will result in a Club being suspended from the competition until they have conformed to this rule.
- (C)** The CWO is responsible for collating the vetting forms for those Club officials who are considered to be working in close contact with children. Club officials who have already been vetted **through the English Football Association** will be required to give documentary proof.
- (D)** The CWO is encouraged to communicate directly with the County FA's Welfare Officer. The Youth League Welfare Officer's role is to offer guidance and support where possible.
- (E)** CWO's should be selected from volunteers who are not directly concerned with the management of a team.
- (F)** All Club officials that are issued with a League ID badge must wear them at all times during League sanctioned fixtures.

S13. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS (For Youth & Mini-Soccer)

- (A)** Goal posts are to be securely anchored to the ground, nets must be securely fastened and only net pegs must be used to pin the nets securely.
- (B)** No Club playing in this League must knowingly use creosote or other harmful chemicals in the marking of pitches.
- (C)** The home team coach shall place ropes no less than 1 metre from the touchlines. Parents and supporters must stand behind these ropes. Parents and Supporters must not stand on the goal line or behind the goals.
- (D)** No parents or spectators are to stand behind the goal line.
- (E)** It is the responsibility of all Club officials to enforce these rules.
- (F)** It is the responsibility of each individual Club to formulate a policy regarding supporters bringing animals to football matches organized by this League. However, the League Executive Committee insists that if animals are present at fixtures they are kept under control at all times.
- (G)** It is the responsibility of the home team officials to check that the field of play is fit for use and any hazardous articles or substances are safely removed before play commences.

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S14. FAIR PLAY AWARD - Youth Division Only

- (A) The 'Fair Play' award will be awarded annually and shall be determined by the number of points a team receives from their opponents during the season based on the sportsmanship of the players, coaches and supporters.
- (B) All managers must record a score between 1 and 10 in the 'Fair Play' box of the Registration Secretary's copy of the team sheet.
- (C) If a team receives 4 points or less from the awarding manager. That manager must inform the Registration Secretary, by letter the reason for the low score.
- (D) 5 Points will be deducted from a team's overall Fair Play total if it is proven that a player, coach or supporter from the team infringes the Competition or Football Association Rules. If a team has 20 points or more deducted from the 'Fair Play' total during the season then 3 points will be deducted from their total League points score. 3 points will be deducted in this manner for every block of 20 points deducted.
- (E) The team receiving the highest number of points from each age group will be the 'Fair Play' winners for that particular division. The overall winner will be decided by the League Executive Committee and shall be awarded the 'Fair Play' cup.

S15. SUBMISSION OF RESULTS & PRESS REPORTS

- (A) Each Club shall appoint a person to act as Club Press Officer. They will be responsible for collating all team reports into one document and then to email that document in the format shown below to the League Press Secretary.

Name of Club

Date of Fixture

Age Group

Competition E.g. Olympic Trophies

Result (must be as follows) Kelsall Kickers 3 - 1 Tarvin Tumblers

Short match report no more than six lines giving a balanced overview of the game

Home Team goal scorers

MoM Home Team

Away Team goal scorers

MoM Away Team (if known).

- (B) Match reports should be forwarded by the Club representative to the League Press Secretary using email within 8 hours of the game finishing for inclusion in the submissions to the media.
- (C) The League Press Secretary reserves the right to edit out any inflammatory, negative or insensitive content.
- (D) This League refrains from publishing results that show a difference in score lines of 10 goals.

Chester & District Junior Football League

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Appendix B

The Football Association Laws for 9 v 9 Football

This guide provides the Laws for Under 11 and Under 12 versions of the game, with children playing a maximum of 9v9. These Laws are also appropriate for other age groups playing 9v9 football.

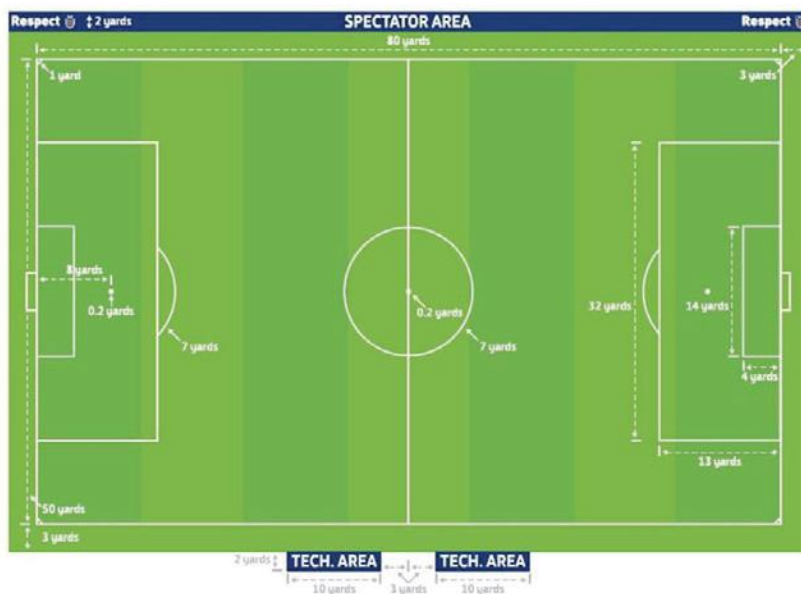
Please remember:

From season 2015/16 Under 11's are not permitted to play in leagues where results are collected or published or winner trophies are presented, this is deemed to be detrimental to the development of the player and the game and will not be sanctioned.

Under 11's can play in a maximum of three trophy events during the season, lasting a maximum of six weeks each. These are short-term experiences helping children learn about winning and losing in an appropriate environment. The winners of these events can be published and trophies can be presented.

Except where other provision, in these Laws are made, the Laws of Association Football apply. Each Law is numbered to correspond with the appropriate Law of the Game. These Laws are mandatory unless special permission is granted by The Football Association.

Law 1 - Playing Area



Halfway Line

The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The centre mark is indicated at the mid-point of the halfway line.

Goal Size

The distance between the posts is either 16ft or 21ft and the distance between the lower edge of the cross bar and the ground is 7ft.

Law 2 - The Ball

- The ball should be size 4 for U11 – U12
- It should be safe and made of leather or another suitable material

Chester & District Junior Football League

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Law 3 - Number of Players

Maximum number per team, including goalkeeper for under 11 and under 12 is 9 v9. (Minimum 6v6).

If the competition would like to have smaller numbers, e.g. 7v7 at U11 or U12, this is allowed within this framework.

A match may not START if either team consists of fewer than six players. The minimum number of players in a team required for a match to CONTINUE is also six. Should a team fall below this, normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Players must play with and against players only from their own age range, as per Football Association and Competition rules.

Each team must not have a squad greater than double the size of the team per age.

Any number of substitutes may be used at any time with the permission of the referee. A player who has been replaced may return to the playing area as a substitute for another player.

All team members should receive equal playing time where possible, with a best practice recommendation of at least 50% per player for each game.

For all other substitution rules, normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Law 4 - Playing Equipment

Players must wear shin guards and goalkeepers must wear a distinguishing playing strip. Shin guards must be covered entirely by the socks.

Players must wear the appropriate clothing dependant on the weather.

Correct footwear must be worn for the surface of the pitch e.g. no metal studs on artificial grass pitches.

Law 5 - Referees

The Authority of the Referee

Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws for 9v9 Football in connection with the match to which they have been appointed.

The powers and duties of the referee are as normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Law 6 - Assistant Referee

Two assistant referees may be appointed whose duties, subject to the decision of the referee, are to indicate:

- When the whole of the ball leaves the field of play
- Which team is entitled to a corner kick, goal kick or throw-in
- When a player may be penalized for being in an offside position
- When a substitution is requested
- When misconduct or any other incident occurs out of the view of the referee
- When offences have been committed whenever the assistant referees have a better view than the referee (this includes, in certain circumstances, offences committed in the penalty area)
- Whether, at penalty kicks, the goalkeeper moves off the goal line before the ball is kicked and if the ball crosses the line

Law 7 - Duration of the Game

In any one day, no player shall play more than 100 minutes. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer or organization to ensure the child does not exceed this. Each league/competition will determine its own playing time within the maximum time permitted however the maximum duration will be two halves of 30 minutes. It is permitted during development matches that the periods of play can be split into equal quarters.

The half time interval must not exceed 15 minutes.

Please refer to the Standard Code of Rules for Youth Competitions.

Law 8 - Start and Restart of Play

Procedure

A kick-off is taken at the centre of the playing area to start the game and after a goal has been scored.

Opponents must be seven yards away from the ball and in their own half of the field.

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Chester & District Junior Football League

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Law 9 - Ball In and Out of Play

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Law 10 - Method of Scoring

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Law 11 - Offside

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Law 12 - Fouls and Misconduct

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Law 13 - Free Kicks

For all free kicks opponents must be 10 yards from the ball.

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Law 14 - Penalty Kicks

Position of the Ball and the Players:

All players except the defending goalkeeper and kicker must be outside the penalty area and at least 7 yards from the penalty mark.

All other normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Law 15 - Throw-in

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Law 16 - Goal Kick

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Law 17 - Corner Kicks

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Chester & District Junior Football League

Mini Soccer & Youth Divisions

Appendix C

The Football Association Laws for Mini-Soccer under 7s and under 8s

This guide provides the Laws for Under 7 and Under 8 versions of the game, with children playing a maximum of 5v5.

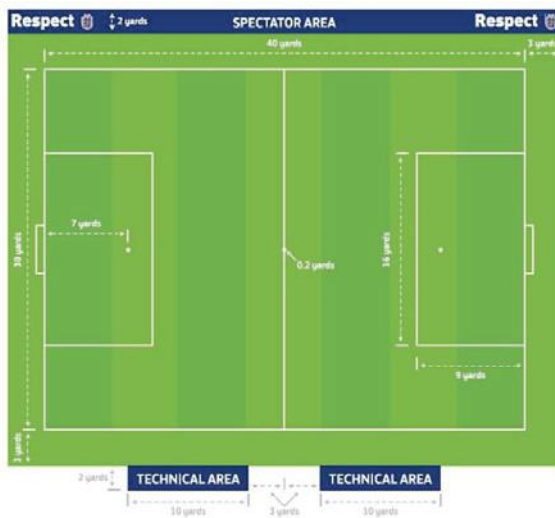
Please remember:

Under 7's or Under 8's are not permitted to play in leagues where results are collected or published or winner trophies are presented, this is deemed to be detrimental to the development of the player and the game and will not be sanctioned.

From season 2013/14, Under 7's and Under 8's can play in a maximum of three trophy events during the season, lasting a maximum of two weeks each. These are short-term experiences helping children learn about winning and losing in an appropriate environment. The winners of these events can be published and trophies can be presented.

Except where other provision, in these Laws are made, the Laws of Association Football apply. Each Law is numbered to correspond with the appropriate Law of the Game. These Laws are mandatory unless special permission is granted by The Football Association.

Law 1 - Playing Area



Halfway Line

The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The centre mark is indicated at the mid-point of the halfway line. This is also used as the retreat line when restarting play with a goal kick.

Goal Size

The distance between the posts is 12ft and the distance between the lower edge of the cross bar and the ground is 6ft.

Law 2 - The Ball

- The ball should be size 3 for U7 and U8
- It should be safe and made of leather or another suitable material

Chester & District Junior Football League

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Law 3 - Number of Players

Maximum number per team, including goalkeeper for under 7 and under 8 is 5 v5. (Minimum 4v4).
If the competition would like to have smaller numbers, e.g. 4v4 at U7 or U8, this is allowed within this framework.

A match may not START if either team consists of fewer than four players. The minimum number of players in a team required for a match to CONTINUE is also four. Matches can begin with 5v4 but the importance and ethos of Mini-Soccer should be upheld wherever possible and the development of the children should come before the score line.

Players must play with and against players only from their own age range, as per Football Association and Competition rules.

Each team must not have a squad greater than double the size of the team per age.

Any number of substitutes, without being named, may be used at any time with the permission of the referee. A player who has been replaced may return to the playing area as a substitute for another player.

All team members should receive equal playing time where possible, with a best practice recommendation of at least 50% per player for each game.

Law 4 - Playing Equipment

Players must wear shin guards and goalkeepers must wear a distinguishing playing strip. Shin guards must be covered entirely by the socks.

Players must wear the appropriate clothing dependant on the weather.

Correct footwear must be worn for the surface of the pitch e.g. no metal studs on artificial grass pitches.

Law 5 - Referees

The Authority of the Referee

Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws for Mini-Soccer in connection with the match to which they have been appointed.

Furthermore, referees should also recognize their role is to facilitate learning of the players, for example, allow young children to take a second attempt at a throw-in if the first is not within the Laws.

Law 6 - Assistant Referee

Assistant referees are not required.

Law 7 - Duration of the Game

In any one day, no player shall play more than 40 minutes. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer or organization to ensure the child does not exceed this. Each league/competition will determine its own playing time within the maximum time permitted however the maximum duration will be two halves of 20 minutes. It is permitted during development matches that the periods of play can be split into equal quarters.

The half time interval must not exceed 5 minutes.

Please refer to the Standard Code of Rules for Youth Competitions.

Law 8 - Start and Restart of Play

Procedure

A kick-off is taken at the centre of the playing area to start the game and after a goal has been scored. Opponents must be 5 yards away from the ball and in their own half of the field. In Mini-Soccer a goal cannot be scored directly from a start or restart of play.

Special Circumstances

A dropped ball to restart the match, after play has been temporarily stopped inside the penalty area, takes place on the penalty area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when the play stopped. No goal can be scored direct from a dropped ball.

Chester & District Junior Football League

Mini Soccer & Youth Divisions

Law 9 - Ball In and Out of Play

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Law 10 - Method of Scoring

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Law 11 - Offside

There is no offside.

Law 12 - Fouls and Misconduct

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football. However, in Mini-Soccer all free kicks are direct.

A free kick is awarded to the opposing team if the goalkeeper:

- Takes more than 6 seconds to release the ball from his/her hands
 - Touches the ball again with his/her hands after it has been released from his/her possession and has not touched any other player
 - Touches the ball with his/her hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him/her by a team mate
 - Touches the ball with his/her hands after he/she has received it directly from a throw in taken by a team mate
- For all these offences, the free kick should be taken from the penalty area line, parallel with the goal line, at the nearest point to the offence.

Law 13 - Free Kicks

For all free kicks opponents must be 5 yards from the ball.

Law 14 - Penalty Kicks

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Position of the Ball and the Players

All players except the defending goalkeeper and kicker must be outside the penalty area and at least 5 yards from the penalty mark.

The ball must be kicked forward.

Law 15 - Throw-in

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Optional 2012/13 - In addition, U7 and U8 children are permitted to roll the ball underarm with one or both hands into the field of play.

The role of the referee is to also allow young players to learn the game. This may involve letting players take throw-ins again, if incorrect technique is used. The referee should ensure the same player attempts a second time, with guidance and help from the match official.

Law 16 - Goal

Kick

Procedure

A player of the defending team kicks the ball from any point within the penalty area.

Optional 2012/13 - Opponents must retreat to their own half until the ball is in play. The defending team does not have to wait for the opposition to retreat and has the option to restart the game before should they choose to. The ball is in play when it is kicked directly out the penalty area.

Law 17 - Corner Kicks

The opposing players must remain at least 5 yards from the ball until it is in play.

The kicker may not touch the ball again until it has touched another player. If he/she does, a free kick is awarded against them.

The ball is in play immediately when it enters the field of play.

Chester & District Junior Football League

Mini Soccer & Youth Divisions

Appendix D

The Football Association Laws for Mini-Soccer under 9s and under 10s

This guide provides the Laws for Under 9 and Under 10 versions of the game, with children playing a maximum of 7v7.

Please remember:

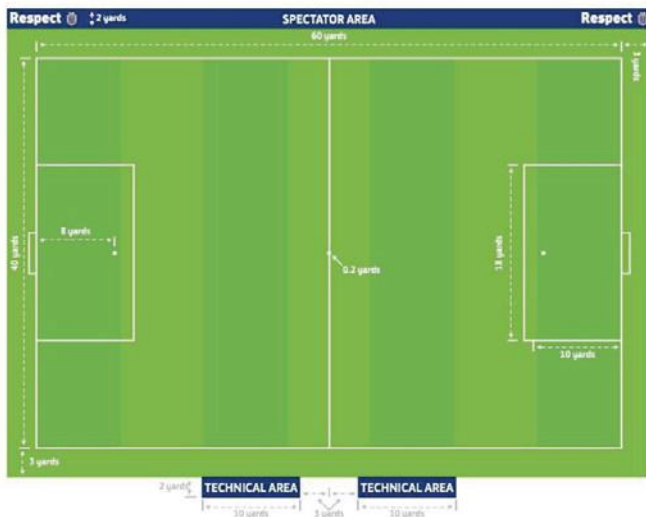
From season 2013/14 Under 9's are not permitted to play in leagues where results are collected or published or winner trophies are presented, this is deemed to be detrimental to the development of the player and the game and will not be sanctioned.

Under 9's can play in a maximum of three trophy events during the season, lasting a maximum of four weeks each. These are short-term experiences helping children learn about winning and losing in an appropriate environment. The winners of these events can be published and trophies can be presented.

From season 2014/15 the above two paragraphs will refer to U10's also – no league tables to be published and the option of three trophy events over a maximum of four weeks, spread during the season.

Except where other provision, in these Laws are made, the Laws of Association Football apply. Each Law is numbered to correspond with the appropriate Law of the Game. These Laws are mandatory unless special permission is granted by The Football Association.

Law 1 - Playing Area



Halfway Line

The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The centre mark is indicated at the mid-point of the halfway line. This is also used as the retreat line when restarting play with a goal kick.

Goal Size

The distance between the posts is 12ft and the distance between the lower edge of the cross bar and the ground is 6ft.

Law 2 - The Ball

- The ball should be size 3 for U9
- The ball should be size 4 for U10
- It should be safe and made of leather or another suitable material

Chester & District Junior Football League

Mini Soccer & Youth Divisions

Law 3 - Number of Players

Maximum number per team, including goalkeeper for under 9 and under 10 is 7 v7. (Minimum 5v5).

The above table indicates the maximum number of players per team at that age group. If the competition would like to have smaller numbers, e.g. 4v4 at U9 or U10, this is allowed within this framework.

A match may not START if either team consists of fewer than five players. The minimum number of players in a team required for a match to CONTINUE is also five. Matches can begin with 7v6 but the importance and ethos of Mini-Soccer should be upheld wherever possible and the development of the children should come before the score line.

Players must play with and against players only from their own age range, as per Football Association and Competition rules.

Each team must not have a squad greater than double the size of the team per age.

Any number of substitutes, without being named, may be used at any time with the permission of the referee. A player who has been replaced may return to the playing area as a substitute for another player.

All team members should receive equal playing time where possible, with a best practice recommendation of at least 50% per player for each game.

Law 4 - Playing Equipment

Players must wear shin guards and goalkeepers must wear a distinguishing playing strip. Shin guards must be covered entirely by the socks.

Players must wear the appropriate clothing dependant on the weather.

Correct footwear must be worn for the surface of the pitch e.g. no metal studs on artificial grass pitches.

Law 5 - Referees - The Authority of the Referee

Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws for Mini-Soccer in connection with the match to which they have been appointed.

Furthermore, referees should also recognize their role is to facilitate learning of the players, for example, allow young children to take a second attempt at a throw-in if the first is not within the Laws.

Law 6 - Assistant Referee

Assistant referees are not required.

Law 7 - Duration of the Game

In any one day, no player shall play more than 60 minutes. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer or organization to ensure the child does not exceed this. Each league/competition will determine its own playing time within the maximum time permitted however the maximum duration will be two halves of 25 minutes.

It is permitted during development matches that the periods of play can be split into equal quarters.

The half time interval must not exceed 5 minutes.

Please refer to the Standard Code of Rules for Youth Competitions.

Law 8 - Start and Restart of Play

Procedure

A kick-off is taken at the centre of the playing area to start the game and after a goal has been scored. Opponents must be 5 yards away from the ball and in their own half of the field. In Mini-Soccer a goal cannot be scored directly from a start or restart of play.

Special Circumstances

A dropped ball to restart the match, after play has been temporarily stopped inside the penalty area, takes place on the penalty area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when the play stopped. No goal can be scored direct from a dropped ball.

Law 9 - Ball In and Out of Play

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

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Law 10 - Method of Scoring

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Law 11 - Offside

There is no offside.

Law 12 - Fouls and Misconduct

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association

Football. However, in Mini-Soccer all free kicks are

direct.

A free kick is awarded to the opposing team if the goalkeeper:

- Takes more than 6 seconds to release the ball from his/her hands
 - Touches the ball again with his/her hands after it has been released from his/her possession and has not touched any other player
 - Touches the ball with his/her hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him/her by a team mate
 - Touches the ball with his/her hands after he/she has received it directly from a throw in taken by a team mate
- For all these offences, the free kick should be taken from the penalty area line, parallel with the goal line, at the nearest point to the offence.

Law 13 - Free Kicks

For all free kicks opponents must be 5 yards from the ball.

Law 14 - Penalty Kicks

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

Position of the Ball and the Players

All players except the defending goalkeeper and kicker must be outside the penalty area and at least 5 yards from the penalty mark.

The ball must be kicked forward.

Law 15 - Throw-in

Normal rules apply, as per Laws of Association Football.

The role of the referee is to also allow young players to learn the game. This may involve letting players take throw-ins again, if incorrect technique is used. The referee should ensure the same player attempts a second time, with guidance and help from the match official.

Law 16 - Goal

Kick Procedure

A player of the defending team kicks the ball from any point within the penalty area.

Optional 2012/13 - Opponents must retreat to their own half until the ball is in play. The defending team does not have to wait for the opposition to retreat and has the option to restart the game before should they choose to.

The ball is in play when it is kicked directly out the penalty area.

Law 17 - Corner Kicks

The opposing players must remain at least 5 yards from the ball until it is in play.

The kicker may not touch the ball again until it has touched another player. If he/she does, a free kick is awarded against them.

Chester & District Junior Football League

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Appendix E / Mini Soccer House Keeping Rules

Fixtures

The fixtures for all age groups are produced by the League Fixtures Secretary and distributed through the League web site <http://full-time.thefa.com/>

Coaches

(A) No Adult will be permitted to coach a team in this League unless they have attained the age of 18 years. They must have obtained The Football Association Level one coaching certificate or its equivalent or be working towards obtaining this certificate. (The minimum requirement of proof being a certificate in Child Protection).

(B) He/She must have undergone an enhanced check from the Criminal Records Bureau. (This also applies to all Club officials working closely with the players).

(C) Each Manager must register with the League and give documentary proof of the above to the League Child Protection Officer.

(D) No coach should challenge an opposing player directly in regard to his/her actions on the field of play. Any criticism of a player should be expressed in an appropriate manner to his/her manager.

(E) It is the Coach's responsibility to control the supporters and parents from his/her team on the line.

(F) The Coach is a role model to the players and as such they must conduct themselves in an appropriate manner.

N/B Young players are impressionable and aim to please.

Match Officials

(A) It is the responsibility of the home team manager to appoint a match official.

(B) Where a volunteer Referee officiates a fixture, he/she will have the powers of an accredited Referee and their decision will be final.

(C) The appointed Referee must act fairly and impartially at all times. He/She must have a good understanding of the Laws of **Mini-Soccer** in particular those applied to this League.

(D) Players may be cautioned or sent off from the field of play if the match official believes the player to be guilty of foul play, abusive language or misconduct.

(E) The Referee may consider requesting the player's coach to remove a player from the field of play if that player is playing in a dangerous or unsporting manner.

(F) Player safety is paramount. The Referee should stop play immediately whenever a player receives a head injury or when he/she considers a player's injury warrants immediate action. If the ball has not gone out of play a 'Drop Ball' should restart the game.

(G) **No Coach, Manager, Parent or Supporter** must enter the field of play without the permission of the Referee.

(H) Substitutions can only be made once the ball has gone out of play and with the Referee's permission.

(I) This League will not tolerate touchline indiscipline towards a match official. Adults should display appropriate behaviour at all times in front of the players.

(J) The Referee may request parents and supporters to leave the touchline if he/she believes their behaviour is inappropriate.

(K) Club officials have a duty to support the referee and keep order on the touchline.

(L) The League Committee reserve the right to deduct points from, disqualify and/or impose a fine on any Club/Team if their coaches, supporters or parents breach any of the aforementioned directives.

Chester & District Junior Football League

Mini Soccer & Youth Divisions

Child Welfare

(A) To promote a safe playing environment this League has introduced a Child Welfare Network. Each Club has an appointed Child Welfare Officer who is responsible for implementation of all FA and League Child Welfare directives.

(B) All managers, coaches and Club/League officials working closely with children within the Chester & District League will be issued with an official League identification badge. Players and parents should be encouraged to only approach those officials that are actively displaying these badges.

(C) No player shall play for more than one team in this competition in one day irrespective if whether they have played their maximum quota of time.

Team & Player Registration/De-registration/Transfer

(A) There is an annual team registration fee of **£20.00**. This is payable at the Annual General Meeting.

(B) As part of the Leagues commitment to player safety each player is required to register with the League at u9s age group. Any player joining this League outside those age groups must also register. The current registration fee is **£12.00**.

(C) The maximum number of players that can be registered per team is shown within section 8 of this handbook.

(D) There is no fee for a player to de-register from the League however a de-registration form should be completed and the Player Passport form must be returned to the League Registration Secretary before a de-registration is deemed complete.

(E) Players can transfer between Clubs. This can take place providing a transfer form has been correctly completed and the player registration form has been returned to the League Registration Secretary.

(F) A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the competition after **31st January** except by special permission of the Management Committee. (FASCR 8K).

Closed Dates

See main Rulebook (page 21).

Festivals

The League will from time to time organise festivals for the different age groups throughout the season. The competition rules will be published on the day of the festival.

Safety Requirements (S10 of the FASCR Rules)

(A) Goal posts are to be securely anchored to the ground, nets must be securely fastened and only net pegs must be used to pin the nets securely.

(B) No Club playing in this League must knowingly use creosote or other harmful chemicals in the marking of pitches.

(C) The home team coach shall place ropes no less than 1 metre from the touchlines. Parents and supporters must stand behind these ropes. Parents and Supporters must not stand on the goal line or behind the goals.

(D) No parents or spectators are to stand behind the goal line.

(E) It is the responsibility of all Club officials to enforce these rules.

(F) Match officials must check the player's footwear for suitability prior to the commencement of the fixture. (New Football Association Directive).

League ID Badges

Team managers and Club officials must clearly display their League ID badges whenever their team is playing in a League sponsored fixture.

Appendix F / Respect Code of Conduct for Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials

Respect Code of Conduct

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, League or The FA:

- 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 an 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

The FA.com/Respect

Appendix F / Respect Code of Conduct for Spectators and Parents/Carers

Respect Code of Conduct

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, League or The FA:

- Issued with a verbal warning from a Club or League Official
- Required to meet with the Club, League or County FA 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 dependants

In addition:

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

Appendix F / Respect Code of Conduct for Young Players

Respect Code of Conduct

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

Appendix F / Respect Code of Conduct for Match Officials

Respect Code of Conduct

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 the 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

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

The FA.com/Respect

Appendix F / Respect Code of Conduct for Adult Players

Respect Code of Conduct

Adult Players

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

Players tell us they want a referee for every match, yet thousands of match officials drop out because of the abuse and intimidation they receive on and off the pitch. Respect your referee today and you may just get one for every match this season.

Play your part and observe The FA's Respect Code of Conduct for players at all times.

On and off the field, I will:

- Adhere to the Laws of the Game
- Display and promote high standards of behaviour
- Promote Fair Play
- Always respect the match officials' decisions
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials
- Never engage in offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour
- Never engage in bullying, intimidation or harassment
- Speak to my team-mates, the opposition and my coach/manager with respect
- Remember we all make mistakes
- Win or lose with dignity. Shake hands with the opposing team and the referee at the end of every game

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 team-mates, the other team, referee or team manager
- Receive a warning from the coach
- Receive a written warning from the Club committee
- Be required to attend an FA education course
- Be dropped or substituted
- Be suspended from training
- Not be selected for the team
- Be required to serve a suspension
- Be fined
- Be required to leave the Club

In addition:

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

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