



Life Vice Presidents :

D. Boon
J. Cox
F. Hawley
K. Timberlake

Vice Presidents:

Andrea Barton
Terry Barton
Malcolm Bennett
Ted Gwynne
Ian Woods

President:

Chairman:
Vice Chairman:
Executive Secretary:
Treasurer:
Referee's Secretary:

Gordon Hardy
Steve Hudson 020 8905 1692
John Marchant 01923 282181
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RULES OF THE WATFORD FRIENDLY LEAGUE 2011/2012

1. Nomenclature & Constitution

[A] This Competition shall be designated the Watford Friendly League and shall consist of not more than 100 clubs who shall be Full Member Clubs.

All such Member Clubs must be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on Form 'D' to the Hertfordshire County Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall have a radius of 12 miles from Watford Town Hall. [With the exception of Clubs in membership before the start of the current season].

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Hertfordshire County Football Association and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 14 in number, with an optimum number of 12.

Member Clubs shall not enter any of their teams playing in the Competition in any other Competitions [with the exception of one F.A. Or one County F.A. Competition] except with the written consent of the Management Committee of the Competition between the dates set at the AGM for the start and the end of the season.

This competition wishes to become a designated Charter Standard League. Existing Member Clubs have two years [until the end of the 2012-13 season] to achieve the Charter Standard club award or face expulsion from the League. New Member Clubs have one year to achieve the Charter Standard club award. The League has the right to refuse membership to a Club if it fails to demonstrate commitment to achieving the award.

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

The Competition will provide 11-a-side football for players who have attained the age of 10 as at midnight 31st August in a playing season and 7-a-side Mini-Soccer for players who have attained the age of 6 years but not the 10 years as at midnight 31st August in a playing season. U11 9v9 may be provided for players who have attained the age of 10 as at midnight on 31st August.

2. Entrance Fee, Subscription, Deposit

[A] Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of additional teams[s] must be made in writing to the Executive Secretary and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee of £5 per team which shall be returned in the event of non-election. At the discretion of the majority of the accredited voting members present, applications of which due notice has been given, may be received at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting. The Entry Fee shall apply.



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[B] The Annual Subscription shall be £85 per team playing 11-a-side football, & 9-a-side football. £75 per team playing Mini-Soccer with the exception of the U7 & U8 age group who's Annual Subscription will be £45. These Annual Subscriptions will be payable on or before 31st May in each year. Plus £5 team entry payable.

[C] New Clubs shall, upon election, pay a Deposit of £100 which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures & complied with all orders of the Management Committee.

[D] A club shall not participate in this Competition until the Entry Fee, Annual Subscription and Deposit have been paid.

[E] Clubs must advise annually to the Executive Secretary in writing by 31st August of its Parent County Football Association Affiliation Number for the forthcoming season, failing which they shall be fined £10. Clubs must advise the Competition on the prescribed form details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required.

[F] New Clubs will not be considered for membership unless, on application they provide a certificate from their previous League [if any] discharging them of all their moral and financial obligations.

[G] New Clubs entering the League will be subject to a 3 year probationary period during which time their responsibilities to the League and its rules will be closely monitored. If during this 3 years period, the new club does not adhere to the rules, or is disciplined for bad behaviour the Management Committee shall recommend to the members to terminate its membership. [As per rule 17].

3. Officers

The Officers of the Competition shall be determined by the Annual General Meeting and elected thereat. {N.B. Auditors/Verifiers are not Officers}.

The Executive Secretary of the competition will be appointed on a permanent basis by the Management Committee [subject to 4 weeks notice either way] and will be entitled to a salary which will be reviewed annually by the Management Committee taking into account the number of teams in membership.

4. Management, Nomination, Election

[A] The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Football Association by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers and Committee Members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. All participants shall abide by the Football Association regulations for safeguarding children as determined by the Association from time to time.

[B] Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Executive Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs not later than May 15th each year. Names of the candidates for the elections shall be sent to the



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clubs with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting.

[C] The Management Committee shall meet as often as necessary to deal with business as it arises. On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Members of the Management Committee the Executive Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee.

[D] Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Executive 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 nominated Officers. [Either Club Secretary or WFL Representative].

5. Powers of Management

[A] The Management Committee may appoint such other subcommittees as they may consider necessary and may delegate their powers as they deem necessary to such committees. The decisions of all subcommittees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have the power to deal only with matters within the competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of the Football Association or Affiliated Association.

[B] Subject to the permission of the Hertfordshire Football Association having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club [including any Club which may have withdrawn during the season] to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the season. See Rule 6 [E].

[C] 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.

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

[D] The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition including any not provided for in the Rules. With the exception of Rules 5[I], 6[h], 10[a], 11 and 19 for any breaches of Rules a formal written charge must be issued. The respondent shall be given seven days from the date of notice to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to:-

- [I] Accept or deny the charge
- [ii] Submit in writing a case of mitigation, or
- [iii] Put their case before the Management Committee



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

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

[E] All decisions made by the Management Committee shall be binding, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

Decisions made by the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 14 days of the decision being made.

[F] 5 Members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and 3 Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by any subcommittee of the competition.

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

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

[I] All fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting of the written notification. Clubs, officials or individuals committing a breach of this Rule will incur such penalties as the Management Committee may impose.

Clubs failing to do so will be fined a maximum of £50.00. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional sum within 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding payments are settled

[J] A Member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or match may have any expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.

[K] The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition season.

[L] No participant under the age of eighteen shall be fined.

[M] Leagues who organises Mini Soccer for teams playing U7 or U8 football may not, with the exception of rules 6, 10[a], 11[d], 14 & 19 fine clubs for breaches of League Rules.

[N] The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee MAY be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

6. Annual General Meeting



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[A] The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least twenty Members are present and entitled to vote:-

- To receive and confirm the Minutes of the proceeding Annual General Meeting.
- To consider any business arising there from.
- To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
- Election of Clubs to fill vacancies [as recommended by the Management Committee].
- Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing season.
- Election of Honorary Officers and Management Committee.
- Appointment of Auditors.
- Alteration of Rules, if any [of which notice has been given]
- Fix the dates for the commencement of the season and kick off times between 9.30am and 2.00pm. Mid-week K/O from 6pm
- Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to Annual General Meeting.

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

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

[D] Each Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than 14 days notice shall be given of any meeting.

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

[F] All voting shall be concluded by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least 2/3 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 Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £10.

[I] Officers & Management Committee shall be entitled to attend and vote at AGM.



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7. Agreement to be signed

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

'We _____ [Chairman] of _____ [Address]
And _____ [Secretary] of _____ [Address]
of _____ Football Club have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Watford Friendly League Competition and do hereby agree for an on behalf of the said club, if elected or accepted into Membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16. Any alteration of the Chairman and/or Secretary on the above Agreement must be notified to the County Football Association[s] to which the club is affiliated and to the Executive Secretary of the Competition'.

[Note: The spaces above are intended for the inclusion of the signatures and addresses of the officers and members.

8. Qualification of Players

N.B. Throughout this rule book there are references to the Executive/Assistant Secretaries. Please refer to the committee listings in this book to ascertain the age groups each secretary will be registering this season.

[A] [i] Contract players, as defined in the Football Association Rules, are not permitted in this Competition. A contract player may only play for the Club that holds his contract. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any player signing a registration form for that Club, has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any player aged 12 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

[ii] No player registered with a F.A. Premier League or Football League Academy will be permitted to play in this Competition. A player registered with a centre of Excellence may only play in this Competition subject to the Regulations of the Programme for Excellence.

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

[B] A registered youth playing member of a club is one who, being in all others respects eligible has:-

- Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration envelope in ink countersigned by His/her parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the Leagues Executive/Assistant Secretary five days prior to playing and whose completed registration card has been Received by the Club prior to playing. The registration card must incorporate any known serious medical Conditions of the player and emergency contact details of the player's parent or guardians. These details must be available at matches and training events the player attends within the management of the Club or Competition.
- The registration envelope requires 2 new passport photographs [without hats] of the player seeking Registration to be inserted and it should be accompanied on submission to



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the Executive/Assistant Secretary with proof of the player's date of birth [either Birth Certificate copy, Passport copy, Medical Card copy or previous registration card].

[C] Age qualification dates for players to register to take part in matches organised by the Watford Friendly League for the 2010-11 season are as follows: To play in a K/O Cup game or a game where points are awarded, or results published, a player must have achieved the age of 8 on or before 31st August.

UNDER 7 [7-A-SIDE]

The player must have attained the age of 6 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season but must be under the age of 7 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

UNDER 8 [7-A-SIDE]

The player must be under the age of 8 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

UNDER 9 [7-A-SIDE]

The player must have attained the age of 8 but must be under the age of 9 by midnight 31st August in the playing season.

UNDER 10 [7-A-SIDE]

The player must be under the age of 10 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

In accordance with the foregoing qualifications a player in the above age ranges must not play in a match where any other player is older or younger by 2 years or more.

UNDER 11 [9-A-SIDE]

The player must have attained the age of 10 but must be under the age of 11 by midnight 31st August in the playing season.

UNDER 11 [11-A-SIDE]

The player must have attained the age of 10 but must be under the age of 11 by midnight 31st August in the playing season.

UNDER 12

The player must be under the age of 12 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

UNDER 13

The player must be under the age of 13 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

UNDER 14

Boys [ONLY] The player must be under the age of 14 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

UNDER 15

Boys [ONLY] The player must be under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

UNDER 16

Boys [ONLY] The player must be under the age of 16 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.



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UNDER 18

Boys [ONLY] The player must be under the age of 18 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

In accordance with the foregoing qualifications a player under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season must not play in a match where any other player is older or younger by 2 years or more. The above qualification dates are subject to the provisions contained in the FA Rules C.4 [a] [v] and [VI].

[C] NOT APPLICABLE. [F.A. Rule not applicable to this competition]

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

[E] A fee of £1.00 shall be paid for each player registered [included in the initial registration fee]. Extra registration envelopes may be obtained from the Executive Secretary on prepayment of £1.00 each. [Remember to include a large SAE with your written request]

[F] The Management Committee shall decide all Registration disputes. In the event of a player signing a registration envelope or having a registration submitted for more than one Club, priority of registration shall decide for which club the player shall be registered. The Executive/Assistant Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

[G] It shall be deemed a breach of rule for a player to:-

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

[H]

- The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any player.
- The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities. [Subject to Rule 16]
- The Management Committee shall have the power to make application to refuse or cancel the Registration of any player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct [subject to Rule 16] Subject to the right of appeal to the F.A. or the relevant County Football Association. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated conduct, which may



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deter a participant from being involved in this competition. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the player is registered with.

[NOTE: Action under clause iii shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any case be subject to an Appeal to the Football Association]. For the purpose of this rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the player has received in excess of 112 days suspension, or 10 matches in a match based discipline, in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.

[I] Subject to Football Association Rules dealing with players without a written contract when a player desires a transfer, the club the player wishes to transfer to shall submit a transfer form to the Executive/Assistant Secretary accompanied by a fee of £5. Such transfers shall be referred to the secretary of the club for which the player is registered. Should this club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Executive/Assistant Secretary and to the player concerned within seven days of receipt of the transfer form. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon failure to give written objection within seven days, the Executive/Assistant Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new club when his registration card is received by his new club. In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision.

[J] A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 28th February except by special permission of the Management Committee.

[K] A club shall keep a list of players it registers and a record of 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 clearly be 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[B] and Rule 8[Y].

[L] A Register containing the names of all the players registered for each club, with the date of registration, shall be maintained by the Executive/Assistant Secretary and shall be open for inspection of any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at any other times mutually agreed.

[M] A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match – as specified in Rule 12[A] – unless the player has played 2 games for that team in this competition in the current season.

[N] A player who has played in an upper division five times or more shall not in that season be eligible to play in a lower division except by permission of the Management Committee.

[O]

- Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players will have the points gained in the match deducted from its total and will be fined a minimum of £50 and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- In addition the team may have extra points deducted from its total at the discretion of the Management Committee and may be dealt with in a further manner which is thought to be fit.



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- The Management Committee may, at its discretion, award any points deducted from a Club under this Rule to the opponents in the match in question, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

[P] Priority must be given at all times to school and school organised activities.

- The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers [except for Sunday Competitions]
- Children under 15 shall not play in a team involving players who are more than two years older.

[Note: - For players under the age of 18 the provisions contained in the Football Association Rules will apply].

[Q] All teams playing in this competition must exchange registration cards before every game. Teams not having their registration cards with them will be fined a minimum of £25 and liable to further measures at the discretion of the Management Committee. If a team fails to produce Registration Cards before a game is played, the opposing manager should get all the players present to sign a piece of paper [printing the players name alongside] and submit the paper to the Executive / Assistant Secretary in order for the signatures to be checked against the sample signatures held by the League.

[R] All 11-a-side teams should have a minimum of 11 players registered by 15th July
9-a-side teams should have a minimum of 9 players registered by 15th July and
7-a-side teams should have a minimum of 7 players registered by 15th July. With the exception of the U7 & U8's. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a late registration surcharge of £20 per team and may result in fixture being withheld at the discretion of the Fixture / Executive / Assistant Secretaries. U7 & U8 teams must have a minimum of 7 players registered by 15th September or will be subject to a late registration surcharge of £20 and fixtures may be withheld at the discretion of the Management Committee.

[S] Registration Envelopes containing 2 new passport photos are to be completed by ALL players prior to the forthcoming season. Proof of date of birth need only be submitted by players new to the league – for all other players their previous registration card will suffice.

[T] No Club, club official, team manager or other person attached to a club, as parent or player, shall approach a player already registered with another member club to entice that player to leave that member club to join another. Such an approach is serious misconduct and may lead to a fine and/or suspension.

[U] No team in 11-a-side membership shall have more than 20 players registered at any one time. No team in 9-a-side membership shall have more than 16 players registered at any one time. No team in 7-a-side membership shall have more than 14 players registered at one time.

[V] Any player registered within a particular age group, but still eligible to play for the age group immediately below cannot be transferred from the older to the younger age group within the same club after 31st October in each season. Similarly, any player registered within a particular age group, but eligible to play in the age group immediately above cannot be transferred from the younger to the older age group within the same club after 31st October in each season.



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[W] On the date of County F.A. Inter-League matches, the League shall have priority upon all players selected for the League Representative Team and such players selected cannot play for their clubs on the same day.

[X] Should a club have 2 or more players from the same team selected for a League Representative Team or County Representative Side it can apply for a postponement of fixture for that date if it so desires. Should a club have 1 player selected, and that player is that team's main goalkeeper, then again it can apply for a postponement of fixture for the date in question if it so wished.

[Y] A player de-registered for a club during the season shall not be allowed to be registered by that same club in the same season except in exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the Management Committee.

[Z] The minimum number of players required to fulfil any 11-a-side fixture is 7. Minimum number of players required to fulfil any 9-a-side fixture is 7. Minimum number of players required to fulfil any 7-a-side fixture is 5.

9. Club Colours, Club Name

[A] Every Club/team must register its normal first and second choice colours with the Competition by 1st July. The Management Committee may rule on suitability.

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

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

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

If in the opinion of the referee, two clubs have similar shirt colours the away team shall make the change. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick off by not having a change shall be fined £10.00

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

All shirts must be numbered.

[B] Any club wishing to change its name and/or colours must first obtain permission from its affiliated County F.A. and from the Management Committee.

[C] Alterations to information printed in the League Handbook by any club/team must be sent to the Executive Secretary in writing and between the date of the change[s] and the date of the next Full Council Meeting, all opponents must be advised of such changes verbally. Failure to comply with this ruling will be deemed misconduct under Rule 5[H].



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10. Playing Season. Conditions of Play. Times of Kick Off. Postponements. Substitutes

[A] The Annual General Meeting shall determine the date for the commencement of the season which shall be in accordance with the Football Association Rules. No Club shall be compelled to play after the concluding date. Original fixtures arranged by a Fixture Secretary must not be rearranged for a date later than 7 days preceding the concluding date. Fixtures are deemed to be accepted unless objections are received by the relevant fixture secretary with fourteen days of their issue.

[B] All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board or, for Mini-Soccer, the Laws of Mini-Soccer as set down by the football Association.

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

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

All matches shall have duration as set out below unless a shorter time is mutually agreed between the two Captains in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

For Mini Soccer the duration of play shall be as follows:

- U7 U8 U9 age groups.....20 minutes each way
- Under 10 age groups.....25 minutes each way

The maximum playing time for U7 U8 age group is 40 minutes. The maximum playing time for U9 U10 U11 is 60 minutes. For Youth Football – the duration of play shall be as follows [unless mutually agreed by all parties to reduce the time:]

- Under 11 & Under 12.....30 minutes each half
- Under 13 & Under 14.....35 minutes each half
- Under 15 & Under 16.....40 minutes each half
- Under 17 & Under 18.....45 minutes each half

The minimum time for any game will not be less than 20 minutes each half for players in the Under 14 age group and below and 25 minutes each half for all other age groups.

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

The times of kick off shall be fixed at the AGM. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time shall/may be fined a sum not exceeding £20.00 or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine. In order to complete League Fixtures Secretaries are entitled to schedule “double headers” which shall take the form of two successive games as follows.



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- U7 & U8 10 minutes each way
- U9 & U10 15 minutes each way
- U11 & U12 20 minutes each way
- U13 & U14 22 and a half minutes each way
- U15 & U16 25 minutes each way
- U18 30 minutes each way

There shall be a break of 15 minutes between each game.

Member clubs shall advise the League on the appropriate form before the season commences each of its teams preferred kick off times. These times will be used by the relevant fixture secretaries in the compilation of matches and these times must be adhered to. Any club failing to commence at the appointed time may/shall be fined £20.00. If your opponents have applied and been granted special religious dispensation, then your advised preferred kick off time may be amended by the relevant fixture secretary and this time will be final.

Teams may apply in writing, with full supporting documentation, to be sent to Ian Woods for Special Religious Dispensation to be applied to their kick off times, home and away. Where the dispensation has been granted kick off times will be notified by the relevant fixture secretary and will be final. This needs to be done by 15th July of the playing season.

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

The home team must provide at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. The size of ball used shall be. Mini-Soccer: Size 3 for players in the U7 U8 categories. Size 4 for players in the U9 U10 categories. Youth-Football: Size 4 for players in the U11 U12 U13 U14 age group size 5 for all other age groups. Goal nets / corner flags must be used.

[C] Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally published, but priority shall be given to The Football Association and all relevant County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the relevant fixture secretary and appointed referee. In the case of a revised fixture date, The Clubs must be given by the competition 5 clear day's notice of the match [unless otherwise mutually agreed]

[D] The manager of the home side must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the match officials and Manager of the opposing team at least 5 clear days prior to the playing of a match. Any club failing to comply with this rule shall be liable to a fine of £10

[E] In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than -----players they shall be fined-----for each missing player, A minimum number of 7 players will constitute a team for a competition match, and 5 players for U7 U8 U9 U10 & U11 [9-A-Side]

[F] [I] Home and Away League 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, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award points from the match in question to the opponents, order the



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defaulting club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals.

[Note: - Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have the power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponents ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances].

[ii] Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture must without delay give notice to the relevant Fixture Secretary, the Referee Secretary the Manager of the opposing club and match officials [If appointed] Any club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict a fine they may deem suitable. Application for postponement; see Rule 10[L] & 10[M] In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes which neither club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date to be set by the relevant Fixture Secretary.

[iii]The Management Committee shall review all abandoned matches and in the case where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either club, 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 the match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its club member[s] they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponents and/or take what other action they consider appropriate. In the event of both teams being deemed to be responsible for the abandonment, the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match be void.

No fines can be applied by the Management Committee for abandoned matches. In Cup Matches, to withdraw both teams from that competition and to enforce other measures that they deem appropriate on both teams.

[G] A club at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the game may: May in Under 16 football and lower age groups.....use 5 substitutes from 5 named.....in addition repeated substitutions are permissible as follows.....a player who has been substituted during a match himself becomes a substitute and may in turn replace another player at any time, subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

In Mini-Soccer use of 7 substitutes may be used at any time with the permission of the referee during a stoppage in play. A player who has been replaced may return to the pitch as a substitute for another player. A team must not have a squad greater than double the size of its team in an age group.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than 5 minutes before the start of the match.

A player who is named as above and takes part in the game must have his/her name put on the result card. A player named as above who does not take part need not be put on the result card and shall not be considered to have been a player in that game within the meaning of Rule 8 of the Competition.

[H] In Youth Football the half time interval shall be 10 minutes duration, and it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee. In Mini-Soccer that half time interval shall be of 5 minutes duration.



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[I] It is strongly recommended that all players and clubs officials to have signed the FA's Respect Codes of Conduct and produce these if so requested by the League management committee.

Prior to each match the participating teams and officials shall conduct the 'Respect' handshake and/or participating teams to offer 'three cheers' and handshakes to the opposing team after the match.

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

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

[J] Clubs must be available to play each Sunday except for those notified to the members before the start of the season as being non-playing Sundays over the Christmas & Easter holidays.

[K] Clubs may be called upon to play on any date subject to the fixture secretary advising them verbally or in writing by Tuesday prior to a Sunday in question, or 5 clear days in the case of a midweek fixture.

[L] Clubs / teams may only alter the date of a match; the venue or the kick off time published with the consent of ALL interested parties, namely the opposition, the Referee, the Referee's Secretary and the relevant Fixture Secretary. If just one party is not in agreement as to the change then the match must kick off on the published date at the time stated.

[M] Clubs must apply by signed letter [enclosing a SAE for the reply] to the relevant Fixture Secretary not less than 21 clear days prior to the date in question to request a postponement of a fixture. In ALL cases clubs must provide documentary evidence of the reasons for the request with their written request [e.g. players not available because of a school trip] without such documentary evidence the request for postponement will not be considered. Clubs must wait for a decision about their request, THEY MUST NOT ASSUME A POSTPONEMENT HAS AUTOMATICALLY BEEN GRANTED] 2 FIXTURES PER TEAM PER SEASON, may be postponed under this rule. Additional requests for postponements may be made in exceptional circumstances and these may or may not be granted at the discretion of the Management Committee.

[N] Any club failing to give 21 days of a fixture cancellation may be fined a minimum of £25 and the Management Committee at its discretion may award the result and any incurred expenses to the opposition.

[O] Fixtures must be confirmed by the home club/team to their opponents and match official[s] by 9.00 p.m. on a Tuesday evening preceding a Sunday game. Failure to confirm in this manner will result in a minimum £10 fine on each count for the home team and the possibility of any appointed match officials, might be reassigned to other games. Midweek fixtures must be confirmed to both the opponents and match official[s] 5 days in advance or the same penalties



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will be levied. This ruling will only be relaxed where there is a late fixture change or addition and in this case, confirmation to both opponents and match official[s] should be made as soon as managers are informed of the fixture by the relevant Fixture Secretary.

[P] Home teams whose grounds are unplayable for any reason **MUST** accept any invitation from the published Away team, whose ground is playable and available to travel to and play at their opponents venue, if the game can commence within a 90 minute period of the published kick off time provided that the confirmed revised kick off time is no later than 2.00 p.m. [Any return fixture will be reversed] The match official[s] must be informed immediately of any change of venue, Failure to accept such an invitation from the published away team would result in a fine, loss of points or other measures at the discretion of the Management Committee for the originally published Home team.

[Q] All clubs/teams both home and away must nominate a responsible member of their club to act as match delegate on the day of the game. Failure to supply one will result in a fine of £10.

The responsibility of the match delegate will be]

- To report to the match referee at least 15 minutes before the start of the game and introduce themselves.
- It will then be the match delegate's responsibility, on behalf of their club to look after the match referee before, during and after the game – until he/she leaves the ground.
- They will be responsible for the behaviour of all Club members and spectators, if the referee needs to, he/she will during a stoppage in play approach the match delegate to assist him/her in dealing with any problems that occur.

11. Reporting of Results

[A] A responsible adult member of each club, must fill in and send a result card appertaining to all competitive games organised by the competition for each of its teams to the relevant Result Card Administrator to arrive no later than by 1st post on Wednesday following a Sunday match or by 3 clear days [excluding Sundays] in the event of midweek fixture. [i.e. Games played Tuesday – card by Friday. games played Friday – cards by Tuesday] Failure to do this will result in a fine of £5 and a further £10 will be levied fortnightly until the relevant card arrives.

If a team attracts 3 fines for late/no result cards in any one season, then the manager of the offending team, along with an officer from his/her club will be required to attend a discipline hearing and further penalties may be levied at the discretion of the Management Committee.

Cards are not required for County Cup or other games organised by the F.A. – but all teams are required to ring in their results.

The result cards sent in, must be fully and accurately completed [no sections left blank] and any instructions on the card of how to fill them in must be adhered to. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine of £5. If a team attracts 3 fines for incomplete or incorrect result cards in any one season, then the manager of the offending team, along with an officer from his/her club will be required to attend a discipline hearing and further penalties may be levied at the discretion of the Management Committee.



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N.B. It is possible for clubs/teams to be fined £5 for each and every transgression. Consequently, an incomplete/incorrect result card with two sections left blank or incorrect would attract a £10 fine.

No result card is required if a match was postponed, but BOTH teams must ring into their fixture secretary to explain why the game was not played. Failure to comply will result in a £5 fine.

A club awarding a sporting mark of 50 or below to their opponents and/or a mark of 50 or below to the referee on the result card must send in to the relevant result card administrator an accompanying letter, countersigned by their Club Secretary explaining why such a low mark has been given. When this refers to a low mark for a referee this letter must be copied to the Referee's Secretary. Failure to follow this procedure will be deemed misconduct under Rule 5[H]

[B] An official of the HOME team must telephone the result of all WFL matches to the relevant Fixture Secretary [or nominated person acting upon their behalf] by 5 p.m. on a Sunday or 9 p.m. on the evening of a midweek game.

Both the HOME and AWAY teams must ring in as above if the game was postponed for any reason and that reason must be clearly stated. Failure to telephone the match result or postponement shall incur a fine of £5

If a team attracts 3 fines for not reporting results by telephone during a season. Then the manager of the offending team, along with an officer from his/her club will be required to attend a discipline hearing and further penalties may be levied at the discretion of the Management Committee.

In the event of County Cup matches, both HOME and AWAY teams must ring their result / postponement in as above.

[C] The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club. Failure to do so will result in a fine.

NB. If fixed penalty exceeds £20 the club must be charged as detailed in Rule 5[D]

[D] Leagues are permitted to collect but not to publish results for fixtures they have organised for U7 and U8 Mini Soccer. They may be required to confirm that a set of fixtures have been played. A maximum fine of £5 shall be imposed for a breach of this Rule.

12. Determining Championship

[A] Team ranking within the League Competition will be decided by points with 3 points to be awarded for a win and 1 point for a drawn match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points. In Mini-Soccer points can only be awarded from Under 9 upwards.

[B] Trophies will be awarded to both winners and runners up except in the event of two or more teams finishing top of their division on equal points then the Championship will be shared and there will be Championship medals for the joint winners only.



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[C] In the event of a team not completing 75% of its fixtures for the season, all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting teams shall be expunged from the competition table. [Cup Competitions – See Rule 24]

13. Referees

[A] Registered Referees [and where applicable Assistant Referees approved by the FA or County FA] for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Association[s].

[B] In the event of the non-appearance by the appointed Referee the appointed senior assistant referee will take charge of the match and a substitute assistant referee will be appointed from the competing teams. In cases where there are no appointed assistant referees, or where the Competition has been unable to appoint a Referee, the clubs shall agree upon a referee, a referee thus agreed upon shall for that game, have the full powers status and authority of a registered referee. If a referee is not appointed on any published fixture list to a particular game and the teams, on confirming the game have agreed to an individual taking charge, the home club must inform the Referee Secretary immediately Failure to comply with this rule will incur a fine of £10

[C] The Management Committee, may if they consider it desirable, or upon application by the two competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available to any match. Where assistant referees are not appointed each team shall provide an adult Club Assistant Referee. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £5 being imposed on the defaulting club.

[D] The appointed referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final.

[E] Youth Football Referees – officially appointed or mutually agreed fees as follows:

- Under 18's & Under 17's.....£25.00
- Under 16's & Under 15's.....£22.00
- Under 14's & Under 13's.....£20.00
- Under 12's & Under 11's.....£18.00
-
- All Mini-Soccer Referees will be entitled to a fee of £15.00

In the event of double-header matches, the referee is entitled to a normal match fee and a half split evenly between the two teams

The referee's fee is payable by the home team and must be paid before the game. It is an inclusive fee. Assistant Referees appointed by the referee's secretary are entitled to a half fee, again payable by the home team before the game, unless the appointment of such assistants was at the request of the away team who in such cases, would be liable to pay such fees. There is no fee payable to club assistant referees.

The referee secretary can at his discretion appoint referee and assistants to a particular game and order costs to be split equally by both competing teams.

[F] In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the club have no control, the Match Officials, if present shall be entitled to a half fee payable by the home team.



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Where a match is not played owing to one club being in default that club shall be ordered to pay the Officials, if they attend the ground, their full fee and expenses.

[G] A referee not keeping his/hers engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to the non appearance, may have their names removed from the list of Referees and the fact reported to the County Football Association with which they are registered.

[H] Each club shall in the manner prescribed from time to time by the Football Association award marks to the referee for each match and the name of the referee and the mark awarded shall be submitted to the competition on a result card. Clubs failing to comply with this rule shall be liable to be fined or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine. [See Rule 13L]

[I] The competition shall keep a record of the markings and on the form provided by the prescribed date each season shall submit a summary to The Football Association/County Football Association.

[J] NOT APPLICABLE [F.A. rule not applicable to this competition]

[K] Referees and Assistant Referees shall be supplied each season with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.

[L] NOT APPLICABLE [F.A. rule not applicable to this competition]

[M] The referees secretary may appoint an official to a game up until 10pm on a Thursday prior to a Sunday game [or 3 days prior to a midweekly match] Should a referee be appointed in this way, he/she must be accepted. If the referees secretary offers an official after the prescribed period above and both teams have already agreed upon a referee for the fixture, the offer may be declined but Rule 13[B] will be enforced.

[N] Each team, when completing their result card must mark the referee on a scale of 1-100 the mark awarded by a club must be based on the referees overall performance. It is most important that the mark is awarded fairly and not based on isolated incidents or previous games. The referee's performance should be determined by the following F.A. Guideline Table which should act as a guide for the overall mark and should fall within the mark range for each standard of performance.

- A mark within each range can be given to reflect the referee's performance e.g. a mark of 79 indicates a somewhat better performance than one of 71.
- A mark between 71 and 80 represents the standard of refereeing expected.
- Any team marking a referee 50 or less must send in with their result card an accompanying letter of explanation as to why such a low mark has been awarded and this also must include suggestions as to how the referee in question may improve future performances. A copy of this letter, countersigned by your Club Secretary must also be copied to the referee secretary in accordance with Rule 13[N]



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| MARK RANGE | COMMENT |
|--------------|--|
| 91-100 | The referee was extremely accurate in decision making and very successfully controlled The game using management and communication skills to create an environment of fair play, adding real value to the game |
| 81 - 90 | The referee was very accurate in decision making and successfully controlled the game using management and communication skills to create an environment of fair play |
| 71 - 80 | The referee was accurate in decision making and controlled the game well communicating with the players, making a positive contribution to the game. |
| 61 - 70 | The referee was reasonable accurate in decision making, controlled the game quite well and communicated with players, establishing a reasonable degree of fair play. |
| 51 - 60 | The referee had some shortcomings in the level of accuracy of decision making and control, with only limited success in communicating with the players resulting in variable fair play. |
| 50 and below | The referee had significant shortcomings in the level of accuracy of decision making and control with poor communication with the players which resulted in low levels of fair play. |

How to decide on the Referee's Mark?

The following questions focus on the key areas of a referee's performance. They are intended as an aide memoir and are not necessarily comprehensive and need not be answered individually. It is however worth considering them before committing yourself to a mark for the referee.

CONTROL AND DECISION MAKING

- How well did the referee control the game?
- Were the player's actions recognised correctly?
- Were the Laws applied correctly?
- Were all incidents dealt with efficiently/effectively?
- Were all the appropriate sanctions applied correctly?
- Was the referee always within reasonable distance of the incidents?
- Was the referee well positioned to make critical decisions, especially in and around the penalty area?
- Did the referee understand the player's positional intentions and keep out of the way accordingly?
- Did the referee demonstrate alertness and concentration throughout the game?
- Did the referee apply the use of advantage to suit the mood and temperature of the game?
- Was the referee aware of the player's attitude to advantage?
- Did the referee use assistants effectively?

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COMMUNICATION AND PLAYER MANAGEMENT

- How well did the referee communicate with the player's during the game?
- Did the referee's level of involvement/profile, suit this particular game?
- Did the referee understand the player's problems on the day – e.g. difficult ground/weather conditions?
- Did the referee respond to the changing pattern of play/mood of the players?
- Did the referee demonstrate empathy for the game, allowing it to develop in accordance with the tempo of the game?
- Was the referee pro-active in controlling the game?
- Was the referee's authority asserted firmly without being officious?
- Was the referee confident and quick thinking?
- Did the referee appear unflustered and unhurried when making critical decisions?
- Did the referee permit undue questioning of decisions?
- Did the referee deal effectively with players crowding around after decisions/incidents?
- Was effective player management in evidence?
- Was the referee's body language confident and open at all times.
- Did the pace of the game, the crowd or players pressure affect the referee's negativity?

FINAL THOUGHTS

- Always try to be objective when marking. You may obtain the most objective view by marking the referee immediately after the game.
- Judge the performance over the whole game. Do not be influenced by one particular incident.
- Do not mark the referee down unfairly because your team was unlucky and lost the game or some disciplinary action was taken against your players.
- If you forget to find out the name of the referee to put on your card, ring the opposing manager to find out what it was when you are filling in your card.

The name of the referee must be recorded on the card either officially appointed or mutually agreed between the teams. Failure to do this will be deemed an incorrect result card as per rule 11[C]. [If you forget to find out the referee's name to put on the card at the game, ring the opposing team manager to find out what it was when you are filling in your card – opposing team parent will not be acceptable]

[O] Teams must confirm Sunday matches with the appointed referee by 9pm on a Tuesday preceding a Sunday game. [Or by 9pm 5 clear days in advance of a midweek fixture] Failure to do so will result in a fine of £10. Clubs who replace and appointed available referee, without liaison with the Referee Secretary will be liable to a fine of £25 from which the League will pay the appropriate fee to the referee.

[P] A copy of any letter that includes content about a referee must be sent to the referee's secretary. Failure to do so will be deemed as breach of Rule 5[H]

14. Constitution of Membership or Withdrawal of a Club

[A] After 31st December in the current season a Club intending to or having a provisional intention to withdraw a team from the competition on completion of its fixture and fulfilment of all other obligations to the competition must notify the Executive Secretary in writing by the date of the Annual General Meeting each season or be liable to a fine not exceeding £50.



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[B] A club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the competition after the Annual General Meeting for the following season. League Fee's will be forfeited and clubs infringing this rule may also be liable to a fine not exceeding £50 per team and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 5[B].

[C] The membership for the coming season having been decided at a Special General Meeting held for that purpose or at the Annual General Meeting held no later than 30th June the Competition shall have the right, irrespective of other provisions in this Rule, to refuse to permit a Club to withdraw its team[s] in order to join another competition and may hold the club to its engagements.

[D] In the event of a member club which is an unincorporated association withdrawing and/or disbanding it shall be immediately liable to discharge its financial and other obligations to the competition.

In the event that any such obligation remains undischarged after a period of twenty-one [21] days such obligation shall be met by the current members excluding those under that statutory school leaving age. Until a member pro rate obligation is discharged in full the member shall not be allowed to participate in the competition, which may apply to the club's parent County Association for a suspension order.

15. Protests and Appeals

[A] All questions regarding eligibility/qualifications of players or interpretations of the rules shall be referred to the Management Committee.

Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts other facility of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is logged with the referee before the commencement of the match. Any club lodging such a protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this Rule and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.

[B] Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints [which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded] must be lodged in triplicate with the Discipline Secretary [along with a protest fee of £25] within 7 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/her club] when such a protest or complaint is being determined.

[C] Any dispute occurring between Member Clubs in the Competition shall be referred for determination by the Management Committee whose decision shall be binding on all parties subject to Rule 16.

[D] No protest / appeal of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining club has deposited with the Discipline Secretary a sum of £25 and their



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protest / appeal in triplicate. This may be forfeited in whole or part in the event of the complaining club losing its case.

The Competition shall have the power to order the defaulting club or the club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs are to be shared by the parties.

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

[I] All parties must receive 7 days notice of a 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 and indicate such when forwarding a written response.

[F] No member club shall be fined or otherwise dealt with for any breach of the rules that has been brought to the attention of the Management Committee by another club making a protest until they have been advised of the protest in writing.

[G] Once a member club has received written confirmation of any decision made against them by the Management Committee it has 7 days to lodge an appeal against that decision. It must send its appeal in writing, in triplicate to the Discipline Secretary accompanied by an appeal fee of £25. In the event of an appeal being unsuccessful the appeal fee will be forfeited.

16. Board of Appeal

Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee a club, official or player against whom action has been taken may appeal such a decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the secretary of the Hertfordshire FA, including a fee of £25, for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with F.A. Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned. No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an Annual or Special General Meeting unless this is on the grounds of unconstitutional conduct.

17. Exclusion of Clubs or Teams, Misconduct, Clubs, Officials, Players

[A] At the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, Notice of motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from further Membership which must be supported by [more than] a two-thirds [2/3] of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot.

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



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[C] Any Official or member of a club proved guilty of either a breach of rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a player or players of another club in the competition to join them shall be liable to expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of clauses [A] and [B] of this rule.

[D] Any team or club failing to complete 75% of its fixtures in any season shall [unless the conditions are beyond their control, or the accredited delegates present the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting decide otherwise by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast] be debarred from membership the following season.

[E] A player who is suspended by their County Association will have their Competition Registration withdrawn for the period stated. That player's club must return the appropriate registration card to the Executive Secretary [along with a S.A.E. for its safe return] and inform the league of the date of the ruling and duration of the suspension.

[F] If a team is called before and disciplined by the Competition Disciplinary Committee 3 or more times in any one season their continued participation in the League will be put to a vote by all Member Clubs at the next AGM or SGM under Rule 17[b]

[G] A club that receives notice of suspension from their parent F.A. must inform the League Disciplinary Secretary immediately. All membership cards must be returned to the Leagues Disciplinary Secretary within 7 days of notice of suspension [along with a S.A.E for their return if / when the ban is lifted] Failure to comply with any part of this rule will deemed to be gross misconduct and will attract a fine of not less than £50.

[H] Any club found to be in breach of a County F.A. suspension will be fined will be fined for non-fulfilment of fixtures during the suspension period and may be subject to further measures at the discretion of the Management Committee.

[I] A club that receives a suspension in any season will automatically have their continued membership of the WFL put to a vote of member clubs at the following AGM [Rule 17[b]

[J] The Management Committee will endeavour to provide a League Officer or Independent Observer to be present at any particular game subject to a request being made in writing to the League Disciplinary Secretary at least 10 days in advance of the game in question along with a cheque for £15 to cover expenses. If the Management Committee is unable to fulfil the request the club will be informed and the expenses reimbursed.



18. Trophy: - Legal Owners, Condition, Agreement Signed.

[A] A Competition Trophy shall be vested in the Association sanctioning the Competition as Trustees. If the Competition be discontinued for any cause the Trophy shall be returned to the Donor, if the conditions attached so provide, or otherwise dealt with as the association may decide.

[B] The following agreement will be signed on behalf of winners of Trophies

I, _____ the manager of _____ Football Club



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Under _____ member of and representing the above Club, having been declared Winners of the _____ Trophies, and it having been delivered to me by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly agree to return the Trophy to the League by the date notified to the members. If the Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under my care I agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its repair and will accept a £30 fine from the League.

[C] At the close of the season each Competition awards may/shall be made to the winners and runners up if the funds of the Competition permit.

[D] The main Trophies must be engraved with the winning team's name, by that team, at their expense, before returning the trophy to the Trophy Secretary on, or before the specified return date which will be notified to the membership at a Full Council Meeting.

[E] In the event of a trophy being returned after the specified date [or not at all] the defaulting club will be fined £30 and will also be required to pay for any replacement trophy that has subsequently been ordered on behalf of the League by the Trophy Secretary.

[F] Trophies must be returned in a good and in a clean condition. Fines liable if not.

19. Special General Meeting

Upon receiving a requisition signed by two thirds [2/3] of the Clubs in membership the Executive Secretary will call a Special General Meeting. The Management Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time.

7 days notice shall be given of either meeting under this rule, with an Agenda of the business to be transacted at such meetings. Each Member Club shall be empowered to send 2 delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Member Club shall be entitled to one vote. As will members of the Management Committee.

Member clubs failing to be represented at a SGM without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £15. Officers and Management Committee Members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Special General Meetings. All amendments of rules can only be implemented once approved by the appropriate sanctioning authority.

20. Alteration to Rules

Alteration for which consent has been given by the sanctioning Association shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at a SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 19. Any alteration made during the playing season to the Rule relating to qualification of players shall not take effect until the following season.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted in writing, to the Executive Secretary by 30th April each year. The proposal together with any proposals from the Management Committee shall be circulated to Clubs by 21st May any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary by 31st May. The proposal 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 a majority of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.



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A copy of the proposed alterations to the Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the sanctioning Football Association 7 days prior to the date of the meeting. Any alterations or additions decided upon at any meeting shall not become operative until the approval of the Association issuing sanction shall have been obtained.

21. Finance

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

[B] All expenditure in excess of £500 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two officers nominated by the Management Committee.

[C] The financial year of the Competition will end on the last of the season.

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

22. First Aid Provision

All teams must have attached to them someone with an up-to-date first aid qualification to ensure full care and attention is given to an injured player[s]. Proven failure to comply with this rule will be deemed as breach of rule under Rule 5[H]. Wherever possible and whenever required the Competition will make arrangements to arrange suitable first aid training courses at a cost to be met by Member Clubs.



23. Cup Competition Rules

Competition Rules will apply in all Cup Competitions unless specifically provided for below.
Challenge Cup & League Cup

[A] These Competitions will be played for annually. There will be a separate competition for each age group. All teams in each age group [with the exception of U7 & U8 teams] will take part. A player can only play in ONE League and/or one Challenge Cup within this Competition in any one season.

[B] The relevant Fixture Secretary will have full jurisdiction over any matters affecting these competitions not provided for in either League or Cup Competition Rules.

[C] No player may play for more than one team in each competition in each season. Any player disqualified to play in any round shall be deemed to be disqualified in any subsequent round by virtue of the original disqualification.

[D] The Challenge Cup will be played on a knockout basis with a separate draw for each round to determine home and away teams and byes, if necessary in the preliminary rounds.

[E] In the League Cup, the relevant Fixture Secretary may, at his/her discretion use qualifying group format in early rounds. Later rounds are on a knockout basis.



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[F] In semi-final ties neutral grounds will be used wherever possible, but if none are available, the first drawn team will play at home. Final ties will be played at a Venue chosen by the Management Committee for the finals days.

[G] In both competitions – timings are as follows:

- Qualifying group stages.....As rule 10[D]
- Knockout ties.....As rule 10[D]
-

If the scores are level at the end of normal time then extra-time will be played as follows.

- Under 18's & Under 17's 15 minutes each way
- Under 16's 15's 14's 13's 12's & 11's 10 minutes each way
- All Mini-Soccer matches 5 minutes each way

Matches where score is level at the end of extra-time penalties will decide the winners.

[H] Qualifying stages of the League Cup will be 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a defeat. If teams finish equal on points and it affects further qualification; then the result[s] of the game[s] played between teams finishing level on points will be the 1st method of determining placing, and then goal difference, will be used. If the goal difference is equal – goals scored for, will decide qualification. If this is still equal a play-off will be arranged [with rules as per knockout ties – see 24[G]

[I] In any Final, the match officials will be appointed by the League



24. Supplementary Competitions

[A] These competitions will normally be competed for annually, but may be suspended in a season at the discretion of the relevant Fixture Secretary acting on behalf of the Management Committee. The relevant Fixture Secretary will decide format, eligibility, draw and venue for each competition. If qualifying group stages are used, position of teams will be determined as in Rule 24[H]

[B] Any team not wanting to enter Supplementary Competitions must advise the relevant Fixture Secretary in writing by December 31st of each season. Any team scratching or not fulfilling their fixture will be deemed to have conceded their fixture[s] to their opponents. Ties must be played on the date stated.

[C] There shall be separate competitions for each age group. Teams will not take part in all competitions in their age group. The exact number of competitions in each age group will be determined by the relevant Fixture Secretary. Teams may be excluded from the supplementary competitions if it is felt that it would cause a fixture backlog.

[D] Timings of matches shall be exactly the same as those in Rule 24.

[E] Final ties [of any] shall be played on a neutral ground wherever possible.



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25. Full Council Meetings / Fixture Meetings

[A] Full League Council Meetings of member clubs will be held bimonthly or at such a time that the Management Committee decide. Each member club **MUST** send one delegate. Clubs failing to send a delegate will be fined £15. Delegates must sign a register of attendance on arrival. Failure to sign the register will be deemed as not being in attendance. Any delegate who leaves the meeting before all business has been completed without the Chairman's permission will also be subject to a fine of £15.

[B] If a club does not attend a meeting where fixtures are issued, they will be sent to their Club Secretary by each relevant Fixture Secretary or the Executive Secretary and surcharges of £5 will be levied against each age group in that club to cover the cost of postage and packing. If a club knows in advance that they will not be attending a meeting when fixtures are likely to be handed out, they may send a large SAEs [Minimum £1 postage] to each Fixture Secretary / Executive Secretary and no surcharges for postage will be issued.

Addendum

The WFL supports the Football Association Child Protection Policy [dated: May 2000]