

# LEAGUE RULES 2023-2024 (SCOR-based U21)

## Note on League Rules (SCOR)

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association for open age football (the “Standard Code”).

The Standard Code is mandatory for all Competitions at Regional NLS Feeder League level and below, and **Tier 7 and below** of The FA Women’s Pyramid.

Competitions seeking sanction must draft their Rules in conformity with the Standard Code, using the same numbering and standard headings.

The mandatory rules are printed in normal text and the optional rules 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.

Competitions may add to the core of the Standard Code, which is mandatory, providing the additions are approved by the Sanctioning Authority and do not conflict with the mandatory rules or any relevant principles and policies established by The FA. Competitions at Tiers 5 and 6 of The FA Women’s Pyramid must also have any additions or optional rules approved by The Women’s Football Board prior to seeking approval from the Sanctioning Authority.

Guidance from the Sanctioning Authority should be sought in advance if there is any doubt as to the acceptability of additional rules.

## 1. Definitions

A. In these Rules:

“**Affiliated Association**” means an Association accorded the status of an Affiliated Association under the rules of The FA.

“**AGM**” shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

“**Club**” means a club for the time being in membership of the Competition.

“**Competition**” means the Oxfordshire Youth Football League.

“**Competition Match**” means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition.

“**Contract Player**” means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play under a written contract of employment with a Club.

“**Deposit**” means a sum of money deposited with the Competition as part of the requirements of membership of the Competition.

“**Fees Tariff**” means a list of fees approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any matters for which fees are payable under the Rules, as set out at Schedule A.

“**Fines Tariff**” means a list of fines approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any breach of the Rules, as set out at Schedule A.

“**Ground**” means the ground on which the Club’s Team(s) plays its Competition Matches.

“**Management Committee**” means in the case of a Competition which is an unincorporated association, the management committee elected to manage the running of the Competition and where the Competition is incorporated it means the Board of Directors appointed in accordance with the articles of association of that company.

“**Match Officials**” means the referee, the assistant referees and any fourth official appointed to a Competition Match.

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

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

“**Participant**” shall have the same meaning as set out in the rules of The FA from time to time.

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

**“Player Registration System”** means The FA system to register players as determined by The FA from time to time.

**“Playing Season”** means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the Competition is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the Competition is played.

**“Rules”** means these rules under which the Competition is administered.

**“Sanctioning Authority”** means the Oxfordshire County Football Association Limited.

**“Scholarship”** means a Scholarship as defined in The FA rules.

**“Season”** means the period of time between an AGM and the next AGM.

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

**“SGM”** means a special general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

**“Team”** means a team affiliated to a Club, including where a Club provides more than one team in the Competition in accordance with the Rules.

**“The FA”** means The Football Association Limited.

**“Virtual Meetings”** means meetings held electronically

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

- B. Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and also the other way around.

## GOVERNANCE RULES

### 2. Competition Name and Constitution

- A. The Competition will be known as Oxfordshire Youth Football League (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.
- B. This Competition shall consist of not more than 130 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- C. The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be Oxfordshire and surrounding counties.
- D. The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.
- E. All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation to them, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.
- F. The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules (the “Standard Code”) determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.
- G. 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.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions.

- H. Inclusivity and Non-discrimination
1. The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (including those contained in the Equality Act 2010).
  2. This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.
  3. Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.
- I. Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including, but not limited to, England Football Accredited and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- J. All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Adults at Risk as determined by The FA from time to time.
- K. Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing in the Competition in any other competitions (with the exception of FA and County FA Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- L. At the AGM or a SGM called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the constitution of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 22.
- M. Only one Team from a Club shall be permitted to participate in a single division unless there is no viable alternative because of logistical issues and/or reasons linked to participation and geographical boundaries in which case the Competition will obtain the prior approval of the Sanctioning Authority. This Competition will ensure that, where permission is given, Teams from a Club operating in the same division are run as separate entities with no interchange of players other than by transfers of registration in accordance with these Rules.
- N. *As an England Football Accredited League this Competition requires all of its current member Clubs to have achieved or retained England Football Accredited Club status by the end of the season. New Member Clubs have one year to achieve the England Football Accredited Club award from the date of the AGM when they join the League. The League has the right to refuse membership to a Club if it fails to demonstrate commitment to achieving the award*
- O. *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.*

### 3. Club Name

Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority. In the event permission is granted, the Club must advise the Competition Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

### 4. Entry Fee, Subscriptions, Deposit

- A. Applications by Clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same Club must be made in writing to the Secretary *by the date of the AGM* and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee for each Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election.
- Applications, of which due notice has been given, will be received at the AGM or an SGM if confirmed by a majority of the accredited voting members present.

*New Clubs/Teams joining the League will be subject to a one-year probationary period. At the end of that period the Management Committee reserve the right to review or refuse entry into the League the following season.*

When Rule 22(B) is applied or a Team seeks a transfer or, is compulsorily transferred to another division, no Entry Fee shall be payable.

- B. The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per *Team* payable on or before 31<sup>st</sup> August in each year.
- C. Not adopted
- D. A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription, *any outstanding fines* and deposit (if required) have been paid.
- E. Clubs must advise the Secretary annually in writing by 31<sup>st</sup> August of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## 5. Management, Nomination, Election

- A. The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and *eight (8)* members who shall all be elected at the AGM.

*Any member club with twenty (20) or more teams within the Competition shall nominate someone from within their membership to serve as a Club Representative on the Management Committee for a period of one season to assist the League. Member clubs with ten (10) to nineteen (19) teams in the League shall nominate someone from within their membership to serve as a Club Volunteer for a period of one season to assist with trophy events as required. Member clubs with less than ten (10) teams within the Competition may nominate a club volunteer if they wish.*

- 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 30<sup>th</sup> April in each year.

All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two Clubs, not later than 1<sup>st</sup> June 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 for any office by the date stated in the earlier part of this Rule, nominations may be received at the AGM.

- C. The Management Committee shall meet a minimum of twice a season or as and when required.  
On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee.
- D. Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.
- E. All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- F. *Any member of the Management Committee failing to attend three (3) consecutive meetings without good cause shall be deemed to have resigned.*
- G. *No telephone calls should be made to an Officer or Committee member of the League before 9.30am or after 9.00pm other than by prior arrangement.*

## 6. Powers of Management

- A. The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association.
- B. Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained, the Management Committee

may order a match or matches to be played each Season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call on each 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 at all such meetings, but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly relating to that member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

With the exception of Teams playing at Step 7 of the National League System, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

The maximum fine permitted for a breach of a Rule by a Team playing at Step 7 of the National League System is £500.

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

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

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

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

- F. A minimum 50% of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any of its sub-committees.

- G. The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.

- H. A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- I. Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision. Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the

Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

- J. A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.
- K. The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season.
- L. The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.
- M. *Any item of post that has to be collected from Post Office due to underpaid postage will, in addition to the PO underpayment charge, incur an administration charge of £5.00.*

## 7. Protests, Claims, Complaints, Appeals

- A.
  - 1. All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.
  - 2. Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee prior to the commencement of the Match.
- 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 with the Secretary within seven (7) days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of their Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.
- C. No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs 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 seven (7) days before the protest or complaint being heard.
  - 1. All parties must have received a minimum of seven (7) days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
  - 2. Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.
- E. The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.
- F. 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, and the Sanctioning Authority may (but is not obliged to):
  - 1. invite submissions by the parties involved;
  - 2. convene a hearing to hear the appeal;
  - 3. permit new evidence; or
  - 4. impose appropriate deadlinesAny appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.



- G. No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.
- H. All protests, claims or complaints relating to these Rules and appeals arising from a Player's contract shall be heard and determined by the Management Committee, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee. The Clubs or Players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining must send a copy of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld, and in these circumstances may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Management Committee.  
All such protests claims complaints and appeals must be received in writing by the Secretary within 14 days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.

## 8. Annual General Meeting

- A. The AGM shall be held not later than 30<sup>th</sup> June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 55% members are present and entitled to vote:-
  1. Confirm the minutes of the last AGM.
  2. Adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts from the previous season or accounting period.
  3. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
  4. Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.
  5. Election of Competition Officers and Management Committee members.
  6. Appointment of auditors/verifiers.
  7. Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14)
  8. Agree the date for the beginning of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
  9. Agree the date for the end of the Playing Season (save for Step 7 which shall be determined by The FA).
  10. Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted by the Chair 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 Rule 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 AGM.
- E. Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 12.
- F. All voting shall be conducted by a show of hands, or count of email or virtual responses (for virtual meetings) unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chair so decides.
- G. No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.
- H. 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 of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a Club (see Rule 8.G).
- J. Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

## 9. Special General Meetings

- (A) Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a SGM.
- (B) The Management Committee may call a SGM at any time.
- (C) At least seven (7) days' notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.
- (D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.
- (E) Any Club failing to be represented at a SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (F) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a Club (see Rule 9.D).

## 10. Agreement to be Signed

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.

"We, (A) (name) [ ] of (address) [ ] (Chair)/(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 7."

The agreement shall be signed:

1. Where a Club is an unincorporated association, by the Club Chair and Secretary; or
2. Where a Club is an incorporated entity, by two directors of the Club.

Any change of Chair, Secretary or Directors of the Club as named on the above agreement must be notified to the County Football Association to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary of this Competition.

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

*The League Code of Conduct Agreement is to be completed and signed by all club Chairpersons, Secretaries and Welfare Officers as well as by the managers/assistant managers or coaches of all the teams participating in the league in the coming season. The deadline by which it is to be completed, signed and be with the League Secretary will be 31st August.*

*During the season any new or replacement Club Secretaries, Chairpersons, Welfare Officers and managers/ coaches appointed must complete and sign a League Code of Conduct Agreement.*

*Any breach of the League Codes of Conduct will result in the party at fault being reported to the County FA for any action deemed necessary.*

## 11. Continuation of Membership, Withdrawal of a Club

- A. Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing of such intention by 30 April each season. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22.B. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- B. The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including, but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- C. Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6(l), in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee shall be empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

## 12. Exclusion of Clubs, Teams. Misconduct of Clubs, Officers, Players, Management Committee

- A. At the AGM or SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, notice of motion having been duly circulated on the agenda by direction of the Management Committee, the accredited delegates



present shall have the power to:

1. remove a member of the Management Committee from office;
  2. exclude any Club or Team from membership, both of which must be supported by more than two thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A member of the Management Committee or Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- B. At the AGM, or at an SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, provided this is supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- C. Any Officer or member of a Club found guilty of 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 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 12.A. and/or B. of this Rule.

### 13. Trophy

- A. The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy:-
- “We (A) (name) and (B) (name), the Chair and Secretary of FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of cup or trophy, and the cup or trophy 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.*
- C. *Clubs winning trophies shall at their own expense engrave the name of their Club and the season on the trophy. Alternatively the Management Committee will arrange for the engraving, the cost of which will be borne by the club concerned.*
- D. *Clubs winning League trophies or cups shall return the trophy/cup on or before 1st March of the following season, or on or before 1st December in the case of Autumn League competitions. A fine of £50 plus repair costs will be levied on all clubs returning trophies damaged. Clubs not returning a trophy will be levied a fine of £100 to cover the cost of a replacement trophy.*

### 14. Alteration to Rules

- A. Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at an SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season, except in exceptional circumstances where approved by Sanctioning Authority and The FA.
- B. Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> March in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 30<sup>th</sup> April and any amendments to these proposals shall be submitted to the Secretary by 30<sup>th</sup> May. The proposals and proposed amendments to these proposals 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 and voting are in favour.
- C. A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

## 15. Finance

- A. The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
- B. All expenditure in excess of £200.00 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 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- D. The accounting records, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be audited/verified annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

## 16. Insurance

- A. All Clubs must have valid public liability insurance cover for a minimum of ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.
- B. All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition Match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the Sanctioning Authority. In instances where The FA is the Sanctioning Authority, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates.

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

## 17. Dissolution

- A. Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at an SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.
- B. In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.
- C. The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:
  - 1. Any surplus assets, save for a trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Authority.
  - 2. If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Sanctioning Authority may decide.

# MATCH RELATED RULES

## 18. Qualifications of Players

- A. A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:
  - 1. Registered through the FA Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition.  
*The registration must include a photograph of the player. Photos should have been taken no more than three (3) months prior to the date when added to the Player Registration System. Player photos should be replaced for a new season when registering players at Under 10, Under 13 and Under 17.*  
*For players that are registered with the League for the first time then proof of date of birth (birth certificate, passport, any official government document that has date of birth on it) must be verified and acknowledged by the Club Registration Officer in Player Registration System and a copy should be made available to the League Registration Secretary in cases of query upon request.*  
*All players must be registered via Player Registration System and approved by the League Registration Secretary one (1) day prior to the match in which they first play. Requests for approval must be received no later than 9.00*

*pm on Thursday for Saturday games and no later than 9.00 pm on Friday for Sunday games. Anything received after the deadlines will remain pending until the following Monday.*

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

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

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

- B. 1. Contract players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under Contract with the same Club who have a team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System.
2. 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.
3. Each team must have at least 11 Players registered seven (7) days before the start of each Playing Season. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- C. A Player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) shall be permitted to register and play for a Club in Competition Matches, but will be suspended from football activities if the Player does not comply with the terms of the Football Debt Recovery Regulations in respect of that Football Debt.
- 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 a breach of Rule for a Player to:-
1. Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.
  2. Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season except for the purpose of a transfer.
  3. Submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through the Player Registration System that the Player had willfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

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

- G. 1. The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rules 18(G) (ii) and (iii) below.
2. The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player or may fine any Player, at their discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).
3. The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the Player is registered or intending to be registered with.
- Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.
4. A Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18.G.3. but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition may consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

(Note: Action under Rule 18.G.3 shall not be taken against a Player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and then only in cases of the Player bringing the Competition

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

- H. Subject to compliance with FA Rule C2(a) when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another club it shall submit a transfer notification to the Competition. A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff *may* be required. Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the club for which the player is registered. Should this club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the player concerned within 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or two (2) 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.

*Second or subsequent transfer requests for a player will not be undertaken for a period of 28 days following the official date of the previous transfer of that player, except by special permission of the Management Committee.*

*An approaching Team may not approach the same player a second time in the same season. An approaching Team may approach only one player in a Team at any one time.*

*An approaching Team may not approach another player at the same Team within 28 days of an earlier notice of approach.*

In the event of a Non Contract Player without a written contract changing their status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a club in another competition their registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18.B.1.

*A player who is transferred is subject to Rule 8(P) regarding Cup eligibility.*

- I. A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 31<sup>st</sup> March except by special permission of the Management Committee.
- J. Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.

*In the event a Club has more than one Team in an age group, each Team must be clearly identifiable but not designated 'A' or 'B' or 1st or 2nd. In such cases, Players will be registered for one Team only. A Player so registered will be allowed to play for their Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 18.C. only if they are eligible under rule 18.Q. as one of the three permitted players to play in an older age group. In all other cases, the player must have been transferred or have been deregistered and then subsequently registered for their new team.*

- K. A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in Rule 22.A.) unless the Player has played *two (2)* Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.
- L. A Team shall not include more than *five (5)* Players who has/have taken part in *nine (9)* or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season unless a period of 21 days has elapsed since they last played.

For the purpose of this Rule a senior competition(s) *are all Step 7 Competitions and above.*

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

- M. 1. Subject to Rule 18.L.2, any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition Match or Matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Competition Match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).
2. The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18.L.2 only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.

3. Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18.M.1 above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion **order one or more of the following (if appropriate)::**
    - (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;
    - (c) Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).
  4. *Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible player in a Cup game then the offending team will be removed from the Competition and their game awarded to the opponents and have levied upon them a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).*
- N. The following clause applies to Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary education:-
1. Priority must be given at all times to activities of school and school organisations. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
  2. The availability of children and young people must be cleared with the Head Teachers or Principals (except for Sunday leagues competitions).
  3. To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.
- O. Not adopted
- P. *If a Club wishes to cancel a Player's registration within the Competition, it must make a request via The FA's electronic player registration system giving the reasons for the request. The Competition may either approve or decline the request.*
- If a Player's registration is cancelled they will not be eligible to play in the Competition for a period of 0 days from the date of cancellation.*
- Q. *A player may only play for one team in any Cup competition. It is the responsibility of the manager to check a player's eligibility to play in a Cup competition. Where an age group is divided into KO Cup, KO Shield and KO Trophy competitions, these will be seen as separate Cup competitions for the purpose of this rule.*
- R. *Players are regarded as being registered for a **TEAM** within a Club. Players registered for a team playing at Under 17 or Under 18 may be dual-registered for an Under 21 team playing at the same club, subject to meeting the age qualifications for that age group (Rule 18.(C)) and subject to numbers not exceeding the squad size for that age group (Rule 18.(R)) to a maximum of six players in the Under 21 team.*
- A player registered for a team within a Club may be de-registered by that Club via the Player Registration System.*
- S. *At any one time:*
- For Under 21, a 11 v 11 team shall register no more than twenty-five (25) players.*

## 19. Club Colours

- A. Every Team must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 30<sup>th</sup> July and the Competition Secretary shall decide as to their suitability.
- B. Any Team changing its colours during the Playing Season must notify the Competition Secretary immediately.
- C. Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials.
- D. No Player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.
- E. Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents of the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeeper's jersey) at least seven (7) days before the Competition Match.
- F. If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the *home* Team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- G. Shirts must be numbered, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.



## 20. Playing Season. Conditions of Play, Times of Kick-off. Postponements. Substitutes

- A. All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.

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 Competition Matches and to order the Club concerned to play its Competition Match(es) on another ground.

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

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

No overhead netting is allowed for 9v9 and 11v11 affiliated matches.

Within the **Regional NLS Feeder Leagues** all Competition Matches shall have a duration of 90 minutes. All Competition Matches outside of the NLS shall have duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than sixty (60) minutes) is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves. Two matches involving the same two Teams can be played on the same day providing the total playing time is not more than 120 minutes.

The times of kick-off shall be agreed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs and the Competition.

### ***For this Competition the duration of matches is as detailed below:***

*Under 21 45 minutes per half*

### ***Extra time where needed shall be:***

*Under 21 two halves of 15 minutes per half*

### ***Penalties where needed shall be:***

*Under 21 5 penalties (can be taken by any player in the matchday squad)*

### ***Under 21 will play on Sundays***

*Unless changed by mutual agreement between the clubs and agreed by the League Fixtures Secretary a match will kick off at 2.00pm.*

*The Competition reserves the right to require teams to play matches on a day other than on a Saturday or Sunday. Evening games will kick off at 6.30pm unless mutually agreed by both teams and agreed by the League Fixtures Secretary.*

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

The home Team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if not provided. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.



The Home team must ensure that there is a designated spectator area set up on one side of the pitch before the match is played. This can be marked by means including an official FA Respect barrier, a line of cones or a painted line. The referee shall make a report to the Competition if the designated spectator area is not in place. In cases where the pitch is enclosed by fixed fencing, this will act as the Respect barrier. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

Clubs should ensure that each pitch has two technical areas marked out (one for Home team, one for Away team) on opposite side of the pitch to the designated spectator area. These can be marked by lines on the ground or cones. If technical areas are pre-marked (e.g. on pitches used for higher level football), these should be used. Dimensions of the technical areas should follow the FA pitch guidelines where space permits, but flexibility will be allowed where pitches are close together. Space next to the pitch must be left for assistant referees on pitches used for 9v9 and 11v11 matches and to allow players to take throw-ins without interference. The recommended dimensions are:

Length: 10 yards

Depth: 2 yards

Spacing: 3 yards from the halfway line, 3 yards from the pitch side



The manager/coaches should remain in the technical area whilst the match is in play unless asked on to the pitch by the referee, e.g. to treat an injury.

The number of managers/coaches in a team's technical area will be limited to three (3). Any other managers/coaches present will be treated as spectators and will have to stand in the designated spectator area. The substitutes should remain in the technical area unless warming up, which should be done away from the pitch, where possible, and substitutes must wear a jacket, top or bib that will distinguish them from players on the pitch.

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

#### **COUNTY CUP RULE**

Teams competing in more than one County Cup should notify the Competition of their entry into two or more County Cup competitions. In all such cases, the team will not be entered into the League Cup to avoid the potential for delays to the League Cup competition.

#### **DOUBLE HEADER RULE**

In cases of fixture congestion and subject to compliance with maximum playing times, the Fixture Secretary can determine that 'double headers' shall be played. 'Double headers' are two League matches between the same opponents, played on the same date, at the same venue. The matches will be regarded as separate matches producing the season's two League results between the teams involved. The pitch and Referee's fee and expenses will be shared 50% each by the teams involved. The team whose home pitch is used shall collect the monies due and pay the Referee. The duration of the fixtures shall be:

Under 21s:

2 separate matches of 60 minutes each (30 minutes per half) – maximum playing time of 120 minutes.

- C. An Officer of the home Club 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 an Officer of the opposing Club at least twenty-eight (28) 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.

*When sending full particulars of a fixture to visiting clubs, home clubs must include an emergency action plan for the venue. This emergency action plan will detail the full address of the venue, including postcode, details of medical facilities at the site, directions to the nearest A&E and details of access/location of a defibrillator (where possible).*

*The home Club shall also give full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the match official(s) three (3) clear days prior to the playing of the match. The particulars can be given to the match official(s) by either telephone or email. If using email, the referee will confirm receipt and attendance to the home club.*

*If an email response is not received from the match official(s) the home club must telephone the referee to seek confirmation of attendance at the game.*

*All Fixtures Secretaries MUST supply an email contact.*

*Clubs are permitted to change the kick-off time and venue of a game on FA Full Time either directly or via FA Matchday App, which must be done by 7.30 pm on the Monday before the weekend when the fixture is due to take place. The new kick-off time must comply with all League rules on kick-off times.*

*Any club wishing to make a change later than 7.30 pm on the Monday must send a request to the League Fixture Secretary and opponents before the change will be made.*

- D. In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the minimum number of Players which will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is 7.

- E. 1. Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have power to impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff), deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the Competition Match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except by the award of goals. *Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a Competition 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.*
2. Any Club with more than one Team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence:- First Team, Reserve Team, A Team.
3. Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Competition Fixtures Secretary and Referees Secretary, the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

*A Club seeking to postpone a fixture must first notify the opposing Club of their intention to postpone. They should then email or submit a postponement notification using the online postponement form to the Fixtures Secretary. Only once this is approved, either by email or by the fixture being marked as postponed in FULL-TIME is the fixture considered to be postponed.*

*The postponement can then be communicated to the match officials and the opposition Club. The only exception to this process is postponement due to the condition of ground; these do not need to be approved by the Fixtures Secretary before they are communicated.*

*Acceptable reasons for postponement of fixtures shall be a County Cup fixture, unplayable pitch conditions, adverse weather, or insufficient players due to involvement in school activities / County Cup / County Representative duties / injury / illness or family commitments.*

*The Competition will allow a maximum of one (1) postponement per team per season for the reason of no qualified (in-date DBS) coach available or no coach available due to a FA training course.*

*In the case of unplayable ground conditions, this must be by the decision of the grounds person, the match referee or an independent referee called in to inspect the pitch prior to a game.*

*Where a grounds person has restricted the number of permissible matches on a specific pitch due to weather, please coordinate with the League Administrator to determine which fixtures should be postponed considering fixture backlog etc.*

*In the case of school activities or other commitments causing the postponement of a fixture, the names of the players involved, and the school attended must be entered on the postponement form seven (7) days in advance of the fixture date. The League reserves the right to request proof of non-availability from parents or school if requested.*

*A team cannot refuse to play a fixture on potential welfare grounds. However, the fixture may be postponed on the instruction of the League Welfare Officer or the County Safeguarding Officer/Lead.*

*The Discipline Committee shall consider all invalid postponed matches. If invalid the team that caused the postponement will be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) and the Discipline Committee are empowered to award the game and points to the opponents or in the case of a Cup match award the game to the opponents.*

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

4. In the event of a Competition Match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Competition. Failing such agreement and notification to the Competition within five (5) days the Management Committee shall have the power to order the Match to be played on or before a given date.

*Within five (5) days of the date on which the match was due to have been played both Clubs must send a written explanation as to why the game was not played or abandoned to the Fixtures Secretary. If this was due to players being unavailable then this must be supported by written evidence from parents, school, or medical practitioners stating why players were not available to play.*

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.

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

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 18.N. above. Where both Teams were under suspension the game 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 Competition Match. A Club may name up to 5 substitute Players of whom not more than 5 may be used.

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

*Where a Competition does allow return substitutes, a Team may use up to 5 from 5 substitute Players in a Competition Match.*

The referee [and a representative of the opposing Club] shall be informed of the names of the Players taking part in the Match (including the substitutes) not later than [15] minutes before the start of the Competition

Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match.

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

- G. The half time interval shall be of 15 minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
- H. The Teams taking part in a Competition Match shall identify a Team captain who *shall* wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of their teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- I. *The manager or person appointed responsible for a team will carry a printed copy of the latest version of the the Player Registration System squad list of their players to all fixtures and must produce this to the opposing manager or appointed person before the match starts when requested.*

*A player will not be allowed to play if they are not listed on the Player Registration System squad list available for inspection. If all a team's Player Registration System squad list is not available for inspection the opposing team must raise any objection to a player or players they believe to be ineligible to play to the match referee before kick-off and then report this to the League Fixtures Secretary by email for investigation.*

*Every manager and coach for a team must be listed in Player Registration System, and each one must include a photo in their FA record, so they appear on the Player Registration System Squad List for that team. Anyone found to be looking after a team on a regular basis that is not listed in Player Registration System for that team, and is without a valid DBS, will be reported to the County FA Safeguarding Team.*

*A member of the Management Committee, if present and carrying an official League ID card, is permitted to inspect the Player Registration System squad list of any team.*

*Any team failing to produce an up-to-date printed Player Registration System squad list when it is requested will be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.*

- J. *All Cup matches will be on a single match basis. In the event of a draw at full time extra time will be played in accordance with Rule 20.A. If the score is still level at the end of extra time, the winners will be determined by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the International Board Decision contained in the Laws of Association Football. Up to the semi-final the first team drawn shall have choice of ground. Clubs with two or more teams in the same age group will be seeded to avoid each other in the 1st round of the Cup.*
- K. *During the playing season all teams must be available to play every weekend, including those shown as "free" weekends on the published fixtures. At least 7 clear days' notice will be given by the League Fixture Secretary for any games arranged for "free" weekends.*
- L. *Each Club must have a First Aid kit available at all games.*
- M. *Players must wear shin pads at all times during matches*

**N. MERCY RULE**

*In matches where the score reaches a goal difference of eight goals (example 8-0, 9-1, 10-2 and so on), the losing team will have the option to end the match and the score at that point will be submitted to Full-Time as the final result.*

*If the losing team chooses to continue with the game and the gap increases, then the losing team will be able to end the match at any time. The referee should check after each additional goal scored. The score at this point is the one to report to Full-Time.*

*In matches where this happens quickly, managers should consider using the remaining playing time as a development match or friendly, and the winning team should use the opportunity to make changes that might even up the match such as setting challenges for players.*

*Where the option to play a development match or friendly is taken up, the Referee will continue to officiate until the end of the normal match duration and will be paid the standard match fee.*

## 21. Reporting Results

- A. The Competition must receive **from both clubs**, by 6.00pm on day of the match or for mid-week games by 9.00 pm on the day of the match, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) and also the referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition.

*Team Admins for both Clubs shall be required to log into the League site on the FA Full-Time system to enter all required match statistics including but not limited to players who started each match, substitutes used during the match, referee marks, or any other information as required by the League Management Committee.*

*For age groups U18 to U21, the Team Admins shall also enter the number of goals scored by each player for their club against the name of that player.*

*Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Should a team reach 5 (five), 10 (ten), 15 (fifteen) or 20 (twenty) instances of late or missing match statistics, an additional fine will be added at each of these stages.*

- B. *The result shall be notified by the Team Admins appointed by both Clubs using the FA Full-Time SMS Result Notification system.*

*Submission of the match result and match statistics in the FA Full-Time system applies to ALL GAMES organised by the Competition, with the exception of Trophy Events for Under 7s and Under 8s and Futsal matches where results will be collected manually at the events by officials appointed by the League Management Committee.*

- C. Not adopted

- D. *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.*

## 22. Determining Championship

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

In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings shall be determined by goal difference (where the goals scored against each Team shall be deducted from the goals scored by that Team and the Team with the most favourable goal difference shall be placed highest).

In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team which has scored the most goals during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.

In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team that has won the most matches during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.

In the event of two or more Teams still being equal, the Team which has the better playing record against the other Team in their head to head Competition Matches during the Playing Season will be placed highest.

If the records of two or more Teams are still equal and it is necessary for any reason to determine the position of each then the Teams affected shall play a deciding match or matches under conditions as determined by the Management Committee.

- B. *Not adopted.*

- C. *Not adopted.*

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

- E. *Any team that withdraws from the Competition shall have all points and goals obtained by or recorded against them expunged from the League table.*



F. *In the event of the Competition being stopped before the end of the season and not able to be completed due to circumstances beyond the control of the Competition, such as a national pandemic or emergency, the Management Committee will be empowered to decide how to complete the Competition in age groups where points are awarded including, but not limited to, use of the following methods:*

*(a) The season may be declared null and void.*

*(b) Divisions may be decided on a PPG (Points Per Game) basis.*

*(c) Declaring each remaining fixture as a draw and awarding points accordingly.*

*The decision shall be applied uniformly across all parts of the Competition where points are awarded.*

## 23. Match Officials

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

*Referees will be appointed for all Cup semi-finals and finals by the Referees Secretary.*

*When Referees and Assistant Referees are appointed then Clubs must always use them.*

*Failure to do so will incur a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).*

B. 1. In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee the appointed senior assistant referee shall take charge and a substitute assistant referee appointed by the competing Teams.

2. In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match.

*The home Club shall have first choice to provide a suitable person to referee the match. If the home club is unable to provide a suitable person, the away club shall have the choice.*

*Any club appointing a referee for any fixture must provide a competent person and will be held responsible for the referee's conduct. Any misconduct by a club-appointed referee will be reported to the appropriate County FA. The Management Committee reserves the right to assess the competence of any such referee and to prohibit the appointment of referees that it considers unsuitable.*

C. Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

*Where club assistant referees are used, they must act as match officials only and cannot coach during the match. Club assistant referees must also remain off the field of play unless invited to enter by the referee.*

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

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

Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the home Club before/immediately after the Competition Match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

*Where a Match Official is appointed by the League Referees Secretary to a fixture within a knockout cup competition organised by the Competition, the two participating teams shall share the fee equally (50/50) between them. For the purposes of this Rule, trophy events are not included, and the League will cover the fees for match officials in knockout cup final matches.*

F. In the event of a Competition Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to *half fee plus expenses*. Where a Competition Match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee and expenses. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.



- G. A referee not keeping their engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which they are registered.
- H. Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the referee for each Competition Match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

*If a referee is **marked 60 or below** then a report should be entered in the remarks box in Full-Time when completing the match statistics. A more detailed report can be sent by email to the Referees Secretary within three (3) days of the match being played. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).*

*(N.B. The purpose of this is to assist referees to improve their performance levels, so the comments should be helpful as possible).*

*For a complete guide to marking see Appendix 1*

- 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 Sanctioning Authority.
- J. *The referee shall submit a report form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the Competition Match, the number of Players in each Team and the time of kick-off to the (Referee) Secretary within two days of the Competition Match. The form is also to include Respect marks for both teams, the names of the assistant referees, the mark awarded to them by the referee and details of any sin bins, cautions and dismissals in the match.*
- K. *Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.*
- L. *Match Officials shall comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA and/or Sanctioning Authority adopted by the Competition.*
- M. *The League will maintain a record of fair play marks awarded to teams by opposition teams and match referees. Should a team fall below 75% for three successive matches, then the League reserve the right to appoint three match officials (one referee and two assistant referees) until fair play scores return to an acceptable level (above 75%). Fees for the match officials to be paid as follows by the team falling below the acceptable level:*

*If playing at home – all three match officials (50% for match referee if part of a League Cup Competition)*

*If playing away – both assistant referees only (plus 50% for match referee if part of a League Cup Competition)*

- N. *All cautions, dismissals, or serious incidents must be reported by the referee to the appropriate County Football Association via Whole Game System within two (2) days of the match. Where unqualified referees have officiated a game, they shall use the unqualified referee match discipline form available on the League website to report any match discipline and send this to their club's County FA within two (2) days of the match.*

## 24. Tours and Outside Competitions

- A. *Any Club wishing to proceed on tours during the playing season must make application, in writing, to the League Secretary no later than 31<sup>st</sup> December of the season in which they wish to tour. The Management Committee will consider such applications and inform the Club of the outcome within twenty-eight (28) days of receipt.*
- B. *Any Club/team wishing to participate in any competitions outside the Competition (Oxfordshire Youth Football League) such as summer tournaments during the playing season must make application, in writing, to the League Secretary no later than two months before the date of the outside competition. Such applications will only be considered when the requesting team has completed or will have completed their League fixtures. The Management Committee will consider such applications and inform the Club of the outcome within fourteen (14) days of receipt.*

## 25. Constitution of Divisions in the Age Grouped Leagues

- A. *At the start of each season the Management Committee will determine the size of the various divisions taking into account the number of teams entered, the number of days available for playing fixtures, the dictates of cup competitions and County Cup competitions.*

- B. 1. Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied to the first two (2) and last two (2) teams in each division.
2. Additional teams may be promoted or relegated to balance the divisions.
3. New teams entering the League will be placed in a division that, in the opinion of the Management Committee, best meets the needs of the League.

**End of SCOR section (U21 age groups)**

**Fees Tariff**

<b>RULE NUMBER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>MAXIMUM FEE</b>
4 (A)	ENTRY FEE	£0.00
4 (B)	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£100.00 per team
4 (C)	DEPOSIT	£0.00
18 (D)	REGISTRATION FEE	£0.00
18 (H)	TRANSFER FEE	£0.00
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES*	<b>U7-U8</b> £20.00 <b>U9-U10</b> £20.00 <b>U11-U12</b> £25.00 <b>U13-U14</b> £30.00 <b>U15-U16</b> £35.00 <b>U17-U21</b> £40.00
23 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	<b>U7-U10</b> n/a <b>U11-U12</b> £25.00 <b>U13-U15</b> £30.00 <b>U16-U17</b> £30.00 <b>U18-U21</b> £30.00
7	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£35.00
* Referee fee for Cup matches to be shared equally between both clubs		

## Fines Tariff

<b>RULE NO.</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>MAXIMUM FINE</b>
2 (G)	Failure to affiliate	£15.00
2 (I)	Failure to comply with FA initiatives	£100.00
2 (K)	Unauthorised entry of teams into competitions	£15.00
3	Failure to obtain consent for a change of club name	£30.00
4 (C)	Failure to pay a deposit	£0.00
4 (E)	Failure to provide affiliation number/details form	£10.00
5 (E)	Communications conducted by persons other than nominated officers	£15.00
6 (H)	Failure to comply with an instruction of the Management Committee	£25.00
6 (I)	Failure to pay a fine within 14 days of notice	Double original fine up to £100.00
8 (H)	Failure to be represented at AGM	£20.00
9	Failure to be represented at SGM	£20.00
10	Failure to submit the required written agreement or to notify changes to signatories	£10.00
11 (A)	Failure to provide notice of withdrawal before deadline	£30.00
11 (B)	Failure to commence/complete fixtures	£25.00
13 (A)	Failure to submit the required written agreement regarding the trophy	£25.00
16 (A)	Failure to have the required insurance	£25.00
16 (B)	Failure to have the required insurance	£25.00
18 (A)	Failure to correctly register a player	£10.00
18 (B)(iii)	Failure to have the required number of registered players prior to the season commencing	£10.00
18 (F)	Signing or playing for multiple clubs, or inaccurate completion of a registration form	£15.00
18 (G) (ii)	Registration irregularities	£25.00
18 (N) (i)	Playing an ineligible player	£25.00
18 (O) (i)	Failure to give priority to school activities	£0.00
19	Failure to number shirts	£10.00
20 (A)	Delaying kick-off due to failure to provide required equipment	£15.00
20 (B)	Failure to play matches on the date fixed	£15.00
20 (C)	Failure to provide details of a fixture	£20.00
20 (D)	Failure to have minimum number of players that will constitute a team	£15.00
20 (E) (i) & (iii)	Failure to play a fixture	£20.00
20 (H)	No captain's armband	£10.00
20 (I)	Failure to produce a printed <i>Player Registration System</i> Squad List when requested	£10.00
20 (I)	Failure to provide opposition team and/or referee with a team sheet (U12 – U21 teams only)	£10.00
21 (A) & 21 (C)	Late result notification	£10.00
21 (B)	Failure to provide result	£10.00
21 (D)	Publishing results/grading tables for fixtures involving U7s, U8s, U9s, U10s or U11s	£20.00
21 (D)	Failure to comply with rule	£10.00
21 (E)	Failure to comply with rule	£10.00
23 (A)	Failure to comply with rule	£15.00
23 (C)	Failure to provide club assistant referee	£15.00
23 (E)	Failure to pay match officials' fees and expenses	£25.00

23 (F)	Failure to pay match officials where a match is not played	£25.00
23 (H)	Failure to provide a referee's mark	£10.00