

STANDARD CODE OF RULES FOR MINI SOCCER AND YOUTH FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association for Mini Soccer and Youth Football Competitions (the “Standard Code”).

The Standard Code is mandatory for all Mini Soccer and Youth Football Competitions.

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.

In all cases where a [] is shown the necessary name, address, number or wording to complete that rule must be inserted.

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

DEFINITIONS

1. (A) In these Rules:

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

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

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

“Club Portal” means the system used by Clubs to affiliate teams as determined by The FA from time to time;

“Competition” means the Sheffield and District Junior Sunday League.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Mini Soccer” means those participating at ages under 7s to under 10s

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

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

“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 Sheffield and Hallamshire County FA.

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

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

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

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

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

“The FA” means The Football Association Limited.

“Virtual Meetings” means meetings held electronically.

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

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

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

GOVERNANCE RULES

COMPETITION NAME AND CONSTITUTION

2.

- (A) The Competition will be known as The Sheffield and District Junior Sunday League (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.
- (B) This Competition shall consist of not more than 99999 Teams approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be 20 miles as the crow flies from Sheffield Cathedral.
- (D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Competition acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.
- (E) All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation thereto, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.
- (F) The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules for Youth Competitions (the "Standard Code") determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.
- (G) All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions, *each not exceeding 14 in number*.

(H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

- (i) The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (to include those contained in the Equality Act 2010).
- (ii) This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognizing that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community.
- (iii) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.
- (I) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including, but not limited to, England Football Accredited and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (J) All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The FA from time to time.
- (K) Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing at a particular age group in the Competition in any other competition (with the exception of FA and parent County association cup Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. A club must immediately inform the competition of the details of any fixtures in any other competition in which the club has entered, for which written consent of the management committee has been obtained.
- (L) At the AGM or a SGM called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the constitution of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule 22.
- (M) The Competition shall not cancel, postpone, or withdraw an entire programme of Competition Matches (e.g. all Competition Matches, or all Competition Matches within a single age group or division, taking place over a single day/week) without prior written approval from the Sanctioning Authority, except in exceptional circumstances of a serious nature (in which event, the Competition must provide notification of cancellation, postponement or withdrawal to the Sanctioning Authority at the same time as affected Teams).

CLUB NAME

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

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

- 4. (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 and must be accompanied by an entry fee per Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election, but not if the club withdraws its application.

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

- (B) The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff
- (C) the event of any issue concerning the membership of any Club with the Competition the Management Committee may require a Deposit to be paid (in accordance with the Fees Tariff) by or on behalf of the Club on such terms and for such period as it may in its entire discretion think fit. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription and Deposit (if required) have been paid.
- (D) If requested by the Competition, Clubs must ensure that all its teams participating in the Competition are recorder as affiliated on the Club Portal for the forthcoming playing season by the following date (15th August). Clubs must advise the Competition Secretary in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

- 5. (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and a minimum of one member but no more than 15 members who shall all be elected at the AGM.
- (B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than 31st of May in each year.

All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two Clubs, not later than 1st April in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.
- (C) The Management Committee shall meet as and when required, save that no more than three calendar months shall pass between each meeting.

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

- (D) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.
- (E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary.
- Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

6. (A) The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association.
- (B) Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each Season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any club which may have withdrawn during the Season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.
- (C) Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote thereat, but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).

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

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

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

- (i) Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
- (ii) Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
- (iii) Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
- (iv) Deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case at a hearing before the Management Committee.

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

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

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

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

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

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

- (E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.
- Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.
- (F) 51% of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof.
- (G) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill, in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.
- (H) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision. Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.
- (J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.
- (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.

PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

7. (A) (i) 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.
- (ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the Competition 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 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 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.
- (i) All parties must have received a minimum of 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
- (ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.
- (E) The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.
- (F) An intention to appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary,

within 7 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision.

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

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8. (A) The AGM shall be held not later than 15th of August in each year. At this meeting the following business (in the following order) shall be transacted provided that at least 51% members are present and entitled to vote:-
- (i) To receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding AGM.
 - (ii) To receive and adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts.
 - (iii) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
 - (iv) Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.
 - (v) Election of Officers of the Competition and the Management Committee members.
 - (vi) Appointment of auditors.
 - (vii) Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).
 - (viii) Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
 - (ix) Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season.
 - (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.

Clubs currently in membership of the Competition shall be entitled to vote on items 1 to 3 above.

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

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

- (B) A copy of the duly *audited* balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting together with any proposed Rule changes.
- (C) A signed copy of the duly *audited/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 Chairman so decides.
- (G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.
- (H) (i) 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.
(ii) Any club that has submitted a valid application to join the Competition for the forthcoming season must have the opportunity to be put forward for membership and to have a vote taken on their membership application.
- (I) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club (See Rule 8.G).
- (J) Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

9. (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).

AGREEMENT TO BE RULES OF THE COMPETITION

10. (A) Membership of the competition shall constitute an agreement between the competition and a club to be bound by and comply with these rules (including any decision of the management committee made pursuant to these rules.
- (B) Any change of Chair, Secretary or Directors of the Club must be notified to the parent County Football Association to which the Club is sanctioned and to the Secretary of this Competition.
- Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

11. (A) *Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition must do so by 30th of June. 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.

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

12. (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: (i) remove a member of the Management Committee from office, (ii) exclude any Club or Team from membership, both of which must be supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A member of the Management Committee or Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- (B) At the AGM, or at a SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any *Club or Team* whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- (C) Any Officer or member of a Club found guilty of a breach of Rule, other than field offences, shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of clauses (A) and/or (B) of this Rule.

TROPHY

13. (A) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy:-
- “We A [name] and B [name], the Chairman and Secretary of [] FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of [] cup or trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before []. If the cup or trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.”
- Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (B) At the close of each Competition awards may/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

ALTERATION TO RULES

14. Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at a SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season. except in exceptional circumstances and approved by Sanctioning Authority and The FA.
- Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 1st of April in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 1st of June and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 14th of June]. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting are in favour.
- A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

FINANCE

15. (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 £5000 shall be approved by the Management Committee.
- (C) The financial year of the Competition will end on 31st of March..
- (D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be *audited* annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

INSURANCE

16. (A) All Clubs must have valid public liability insurance cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.
- (B) All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players’ personal accident insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition Match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the Sanctioning Authority. In instances where The FA is the Sanctioning Authority, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates.
- Failure to comply with Rule 16(A) or 16(B) will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

DISSOLUTION

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

MATCH RELATED RULES

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

18. (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.

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

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

- (B) (i) Contract Players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under contract with the same Club who have a Team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System or step 1-4 of the women's pyramid system.
- It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player registered to the Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 10 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

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

- (iii) Each Team must have the following number of Players registered by the 20th of August (25th for U17/18S).

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

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

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

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

Notwithstanding the above, a child is permitted to play up in the age group above his or her chronological age group, irrespective of any changes of format or competition structure, save that a child who attains the age of 6 after 31 August is permitted to play only in the Under 7 age group, and may not play in the Under 8 age group, for that Playing Season. Girls in all female teams may also be permitted to play an age group down in accordance with Rule 4(F).

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

Age on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season	Eligible Age Groups	Maximum Permitted Format	Minimum Pitch Sizes		Maximum Pitch Sizes		Recommended Goal Sizes in feet	Ball Size
			Yards	Metres	Yards	Metres		
6	Under 7	3v3	-	15 X 10	-	20 X 15	4 x 2.5	3
7	Under 8	5v5	30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	3
	Under 9		30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	
8	Under 9	5v5	30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	3
	Under 10	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	
9	Under 10	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
	Under 11		50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
10	Under 11	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
	Under 12	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
11	Under 12	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
	Under 13		70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	
12	Under 13	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
	Under 14	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7*	5
13	Under 14	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7*	5
	Under 15		90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	24 x 8*	
14	Under 15	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	24x 8*	5
	Under 16		90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	
15	Under 16	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
	Under 17		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	
	Under 18		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	
16	Under 17	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5
	Under 18		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	
	Open Age		100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87	24 8	

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

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

(D) 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 taking into account the following.

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

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

Play for more than one Team in the same age group in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.

Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season, except if the provisions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) apply, or where the Competition adopts rule 18.P

Submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through the Player Registration System for registration 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) (i) The Management Committee shall accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rule 18(G)(ii) and (iii) below.

(ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player, the exercise of such power being without prejudice to the Management Committee's ability to fine a Club at its discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) that has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).

(iii) The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. Where the Management Committee does not have enough information to enable it to make a decision pursuant to the above power, it may apply, in its absolute discretion, to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA for further information.

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

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

(Note: Action under Rule 18(G)(iii) shall only be taken against a Player in cases of the Player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any event be subject to an appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. All decisions must include the period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the Player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline,

in any competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.)

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

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

- (I) A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 29th of February except by special permission of the Management Committee.
- (J) A Club shall keep a list of the Players it registers and a record of all matches in which those Players have played for the Club, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.

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

- (K) A register containing the names of all Players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the (*Registrations*) Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of an Officer of the Club at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.

In the event of a Non Contract Player changing his status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a club in another competition his registration as a Non Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18(B)(i).

- (L) A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in Rule 22(A)) unless the Player has played 2 Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.
- (M) A Team shall not include more than 1 Players who has/have played in 1 or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season unless a period of 21 clear days has elapsed since they last played. 21 clear days is counted by excluding the day when the relevant players last played and the day when the player intended to play again.

For the purpose of this Rule a senior competition(s) are – none applicable.

Where a Team fields a Player in a Competition Match or Matches in breach of this Rule, the Management Committee may determine that it has fielded an ineligible player and that the provisions of Rule 18.N shall apply.

- (N) (i) Subject to Rule 18(N)(ii), 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.
- (ii) The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18(N)(i) 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.
- (iii) Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18(N)(i) above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion, order one or more of the following:
- (a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed, and/or;
 - (b) Deduct points from the record of the Club in default up to a maximum of 3 points; and/or
 - (c) Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

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

- (O) (i) Priority must be given at all times to the activities of schools and school organisations. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with their head teacher (except for Sunday league competitions).
- (iii) A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August in the relevant Playing Season, shall not be permitted to play in a Competition Match during that Playing Season where any other Player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.
- (P) *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.*

CLUB COLOURS

19. Every team must register the colour and design of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 31st of July who shall decide as to their suitability.

Any team wishing to change the colour and design of its shirts and shorts during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the management Committee, in advance of making that change.

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

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

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

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the *away/ 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.

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

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

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

20.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Age Group	Minimum Duration of play per quarter (minutes) (Mini-Soccer)	Maximum Duration of play per quarter (minutes) (Mini-Soccer only)	Minimum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all organised development fixtures (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all tournaments and trophy events/festivals (minutes)	Competition structure
Under 7 <i>Note: 3v3 matches should each last 6-10 minutes with no breaks.</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	40	60	Development focussed with no trophy events.
Under 7 and Under 8 and Under 9	5	10	10	20	40	60	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 2 week periods (6 weeks)
Under 9 and Under 10 and Under 11	10	12.5	20	25	60	90	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 4 week periods (12 weeks)
Under 11	N/A	N/A	20	30	80	120	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 6 week periods (18 weeks)
Under 12 & Under 13	N/A	N/A	20	30	80 (if applicable)	120	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 13 and Under 14 and Under 15	N/A	N/A	25	35	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 15 and Under 16	N/A	N/A	25	40	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 17 and Under 18	N/A	N/A	25	45	120	180	Any varieties including one season long league table

Competition Matches for age groups from U8 to U11 can be played in either quarters or halves. This Competition uses quarters/halves (delete as appropriate).

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

For trophy events, the Competition may award mementos.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs prior to the scheduled date of the Competition Match with written notification given to the Competition at least [] days prior.

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

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

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

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

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

- (C) An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground, time of kick-off and kit colours (including goal keepers) to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least 4 clear days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. The opposing club must confirm receipt and give notice of its kit colours (including goalkeepers) at least 4 days prior to the playing of the competition match. If either is not so provided, the relevant Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

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

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

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

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

OR

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

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

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

b) deduct points from the defaulting Club,

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

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

- (iii) In the event of a Competition Match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the (Fixtures) Secretary within 7 days the Management Committee shall have the power to order the Competition Match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand

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

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

- (vi) If a competition match is abandoned, each participating club must give notice of the abandonment to the competition. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.

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

Where a Competition does not allow return substitutes:

For Under 17s and Under 18s – a Club may name up to 5 substitute Players of whom not more than 5 may be used.

Where a Competition does allow return substitutes:

For Under 11s - Under 18s – a Club may use up to 5 from 5 substitute Players. A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace any Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of the game.

For Mini-Soccer – with the exception of 3 v 3, any number of substitutions may be used at any time with the permission of the referee. Entry onto the field of play will only be allowed during a stoppage in play. A Player who has been replaced may return to play as a substitute for another Player. A Team must not have a match day squad greater than double the size of its team in an age group.

For 3 v 3 no substitutes are allowed.

In Youth Football only, The referee shall be informed of the names **and** the substitute Players not later than 5 minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match. A Player who has named as a substitute before the start of that Competition Match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a Player in that Competition Match within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition.

- (G) The half time interval shall be of 5 minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
- (H) The Teams taking part in Under 7s to Under 11 or Youth Football shall identify a Team captain who *shall* wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Where a suspension imposed in relation to a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) upon a Club or team by The FA or Affiliated Association is not lifted, and/or the Club does not provide confirmation from The FA or Affiliated Association that such suspension is lifted to the Competition Secretary 2 days before a fixture, that fixture will be treated as an unfulfilled fixture and dealt with in accordance with Rule 20(E)(i).

REPORTING RESULTS

- 21. (A) The SDJSL must receive within 4 days of the date played, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) *and also the referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition.* Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
The Home Club/both Clubs shall use telephone/SMS/email/ FA Full Time / FA Matchday as directed by the Competition to notify the result of each Competition Match to the SDJSL by 10pm on the day of the game. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff
- (B) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Club, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (C) The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect but NOT publish results or any grading tables for fixtures involving Under 7s, Under 8s, Under 9s, Under 10s, and Under 11s. Any Competition failing to abide by this Rule will be dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and any Club failing to abide by this Rule will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect and publish results for trophy events.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

- 22. (A) In Competitions where points are awarded, Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Competition Match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners. Competition Matches must not be played for double points.
- (B) In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season rankings may be determined by
 - (i) Head to head results
 - (ii) a deciding match or matches played under conditions determined by the Management Committee, or the position shared.
- (C) *Automatic promotion shall be applied for the first 3 Teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last 3 Teams in each division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(L).*
 - (i) *Should one or more Teams withdraw from any one division after the Playing Season has commenced an equal number of Teams to those withdrawing in that division shall not be automatically relegated.*
 - (ii) *Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the Playing Season may be filled in any of the following ways:*
 - (a) *retention of otherwise relegated Team(s); or*
 - (b) *additional promotion of the next ranked Team(s) from the division below; or*
 - (c) *election*
- (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.*

MATCH OFFICIALS

- 23. (A) Registered referees (and assistant referees where approved by The FA or County FA) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (B) In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any open age competition and individuals under the age of 14 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match. Referees between the ages of 14 and 16 are only eligible to officiate in competitions where the Players' age band is at least one year younger than the age of the referee, for example a 15 year old referee may only officiate in competitions where the age banding is 14 or younger.
- (C) *Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) being imposed on the defaulting Club.*
- (D) The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final, *subject to the determination of the Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, which must be accepted.*
- (E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff and travel expenses of [] per mile / or inclusive of travel expenses.
Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the home Club before/immediately after the Competition Match, unless otherwise ordered by the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (F) In the event of a Competition Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to *full fee*. Where a Competition Match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee and expenses. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (G) A referee not keeping his or her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which he or she is registered.
- (H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the referee for each Competition Match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.
- (I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Season, shall submit a summary to The FA/County FA.
- (J) *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 (Registration) Secretary within two days of the Competition Match.*
- (K) *Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.*

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

SCHEDULE A

FEES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4 (A)	CLUB ENTRY FEE	£50.00
4 (B)	CLUB/TEAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£150.00
4 (C)	DEPOSIT	£100.00
7 (C),	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£25.00
18 (D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE	£10.00 (per player)
18 (H)	TRANSFER FEE	£10.00
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES	As agreed with Sanctioning Authority
23 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	As agreed with Sanctioning Authority

FINES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£100.00
2 (K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£100.00
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£30.00
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£100.00
4(E)	FAILURE TO ENSURE TEAMS ARE RECORDED AS AFFILIATED	£100.00
5 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£25.00
6 (H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£100.00
6 (I)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	DOUBLE THE ORIGINAL FINE UP TO £100.00
8 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£100.00
9	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£100.00
10	FAILURE TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£25.00
11 (A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£100.00
11 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£100.00
13 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£25.00
16(A)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100.00
16(B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100.00
18 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£40.00
18 (B)(iii)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE PLAYING SEASON COMMENCING	£25.00
18 (F)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£25.00
18 (G)(ii)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£100.00
18 (N)(i)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£100.00
18 (O)(i)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£50.00
19	YOUTH PLAYERS NAMES APPEARING ON SHIRTS	
19	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£10.00 (per shirt, up to an aggregate maximum of £30)
19	DELAYING KICK OFF TO DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£30
20(A)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT	£30.00
20 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£100.00
20 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£50.00
20 (D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£100.00
20 (E) (i) & (iii)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£100.00
20 (E) 6	FAILURE TO NOTIFY OF ABANDONMENT OF MATCH	
20 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£10.00
21 (A) & 21 (C)	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION FORM	£20.00

21 (B)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT	£20.00
21(C)	PUBLISHING RESULTS/GRADING TABLES FOR FIXTURES INVOLVING U7S, U8S, U9S, U10S OR U11S	£50.00
23 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£25.00
23 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£25.00
23 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£25.00
23 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£25.00

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Domestic Rules

SDJSL 2025/6

DR 1 CONSTITUTUION (relates to Standard Code of Rule 1)

Clubs must have the written consent of the County FA they are affiliated with to enter teams in any other Competition.

DR 2 ENTRANCE FORMS (relates to Standard Code of Rule 2)

(a) Failure to return League application forms by 9th July 2024 may result in their membership of the League being offered to new clubs applying.

(b) New Clubs and their Teams are subject to 1 years' probation with full acceptance into the League if they haven't breached our TLS system, have no outstanding balance, have worked with us during the year to further the Club and they have achieved FA Accreditation.

(c) Any Club Official/Trustee/Committee Member who is an Official of a Club with outstanding balances to The League, will not be accepted as an Official of any other League Club and will be put to an EGM for deselection from the League unless The League is satisfied that the money has been paid or that on application to The League it is satisfied a person is not personally responsible for the debt to The League. This applies to any Manager/Coach, Assistant etc who leaves a Team owing money to The League via their Club or directly.

(d) A Club may ask The Disciplinary Panel to Review its decision if new evidence comes to light that wasn't available for submission. A Review must be requested within 7 days of the decision, be in writing and include the full reasons the Review is requested and an explanation as to why the evidence wasn't available initially. The Disciplinary Panel may Review its own decision if they believe within 7 days of that decision something new has come to light potentially affecting the decision made.

DR3 OFFICERS (relates to Standard Code of Rule 3)

(a) The Management Committee shall appoint a Competition Secretary whose duties will be defined by the said Committee and who will be employed by the Competition. The terms and conditions of employment to be agreed by the Management Committee in accordance with current employment laws and regulations. The Secretary will be a non-voting member of any committee.

(b) Telephone calls to any League Officer, Registrar, committee member or member club official must not be made before 9am and after 9pm on a weekday and 9am after 7pm on a weekend.

(c) No member of the League Management Committee can have a commercial interest in or profit from the business of the League

DR 4 POWERS OF MANAGEMENT (relates to Standard Code of Rule 5)

(a) Reasonable expenses will be reimbursed to Management Committee members commensurate with the expenses involved when carrying out the duties of the position held.

(b) Not less than 7 days' notice shall be given of any meeting.

(c) Any Club not represented at three consecutive meetings will be deemed to have withdrawn from the Competition.

(d) Two representatives of each Club only will be allowed at League meetings. A Club failing to be represented at a meeting will be fined £10-00 if an apology has been tendered or £20-00 if no apology has not been received.

DR 5 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (relates to Standard Code of Rule 6)

(a) In the event of a tied vote, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

(b) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting shall be fined £10 if they have tendered their apologies and £20 if no apologies have been received.

DR 6 AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED (relates to Standard Code of Rule 7)

(a) Every Club shall appoint a Welfare Officer whose particulars shall be forwarded to the Competition Secretary on the appropriate form together with any amendments to their Club's Child Protection Policy, and whose responsibilities shall be to inform the Competition Welfare Officer, (whose name and details shall be included in the list of Officers) of any suspected child abuse or racism within the Club. Alteration of the Club Welfare Officer must be informed to the County Football Association to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary of the Competition.

(b) Only Secretaries registered with the County F.A. will be recognised as being the Secretary registered with the Competition.

(c) Any person representing the Club in any formal capacity shall have their names and addresses and other full particulars registered with the League on the appropriate form(s) provided.

DR 7 QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS (relates to Standard Code of Rule 8)

(a) Clubs can enter more than one team in each age-group

(b) The maximum number of players permitted to be registered in: -

3v3 12 players

5v5: 10 players

7v7: 12 players

9v9: 14 players

11v11: 16 players

U17: 20 players

U18: 25 players

In exceptional circumstances, normally based around a life changing condition, a team can make a request to the League to register an "honorary player". An "honorary player" is one that is registered in a squad but is not allowed to play, thus this does not impact on the teams available playing squad strength. If an "honorary player" was to play, they would be treated as an ineligible player.

(c) It shall be the duty of Officials of Clubs, or others deputised by them, when first approaching a player with a view to registering him/her to first ascertain whether the player is already registered with another Club in the League. The signing of any players, if found to be already registered with another Club in the League shall be dealt with as the Management Committee deem necessary.

(d) The fine for an illegal approach to be determined by the Management Committee and the player approached cannot register with the offending Club for 12 months from the date of the offence. Any new Club found to be approaching any member Clubs players before the date of de-registration shall have its application to join the League cancelled. On being found guilty, the offender will be informed that notification will be passed on to all appropriate Leagues. NOTE: All illegal approaches can only be dealt with by the County FA

(e) Any registered playing Members of a Club shall be eligible to play for that Club in this Competition (subject to other relevant clauses in these Rules) provided he/she has not, in the current season, signed for or been registered with another Club in the Competition. If the player has so played or remains on the Competition register of players, permission for his deregistration must be obtained from the Club to which he is attached in accordance with Competition and F.A. Rules.

(f)

(i) The registration form must be signed by the Club Secretary to signify that all details are correct and that the player's proof of date of birth has been seen.

(ii) All registrations must be submitted via the FA Whole Game System. Player registrations must be submitted via the FA Whole Game System by 12 noon on a Friday, in order for it to be approved and for the player to play on the Sunday. Special circumstances for registrations to be approved when submitted after 12 noon on a Friday will be considered by the management committee, special circumstances include – but are not limited to; players reaching the age of 6, low player numbers, illness/injury of goal keeper.

(iii) All players in the Under 17 and 18 age group must also be registered with the County F.A.

(iv) Players registration will cease at midnight on the 31st May. Player registration forms shall be distributed to Clubs who have completed their obligations to the Competition, at the June meeting. Player registration forms will be issued to

new Clubs, if accepted, at the Annual General Meeting.

(v) A player shall not be de-registered from a Club in the Competition after 29th February. Consideration may be given to applications for the de-registration of any player during the month of March but only if made in writing to the Competition Secretary. In the U17/18 age groups the deadline for player deregistration's is extended to the 30th of April.

(vi) The minimum number of player registrations to form a team has to be submitted on WGS by the 20th August (25th of August for U17/18) each year. (To squad size, 5 for 5 v 5/7 for 7 v 7/ 9 for 9 v 9/11 for 11 v 11). Failure to do this will result in teams being fined £25.

(vii) All de-registrations need to be completed on a League form in order to be processed.

(viii) Any player who is registered to a team who are withdrawn from the League is automatically de-registered and are free to join another team

(g)

(i) A player may not be registered for a Club in the season long version of Competition after 29th February except by special permission of the Management Committee.

In the U17/18 age groups the deadline for player registration's is extended to the 30th of April.

Special permission to be defined as: -

Teams who have less than their playing format plus 3 subs. (5v5 single = 8 players, 5v5 double = 16 players, 7v7 single = 10 players, 7v7 double = 20 players, 9v9 = 12 players, 11v11 = 14 players)

A teams goal-keeper who becomes injured or ill after the cutoff date.

Other exceptions that the management committee are happy to accept.

(ii) When a player is de-registered by an academy, and they produce released forms, and teams have spaces available as per the restrictions in rule DR7C then they will be able to sign then after the 29th February and will not require special permission from the league management committee.

(h) Advertising for players is permitted from the 1st June to the first Saturday in September without the words "must not be registered with any other Sheffield & District Junior Sunday League team". After the first Saturday in September, adverts for players MUST contain the words "must not be registered with any other Sheffield & District Junior Sunday League team". The minimum fine for a breach of the advertising rules is £100 with a maximum fine of £250

(i) During the close season, any Club playing fixtures as specified in Rule 10, may not include any player registered with another Club during the previous season until after the 31st May.

(j) A player is not eligible to play in this competition who received or has received any form of payment for playing.

(k)

(i) Only players who are included on a squad sheet downloaded from the FA Whole Game System will be permitted to participate in the game

(ii) In the event of a club/team failing/refusing to produce squad sheets the game will not be played and the matter will be reported in writing to the League Management Committee. The League Secretary will issue a charge of non-fulfilment against the offending club/team.

DR 8 CLUB COLOURS, CLUB NAME (relates to Standard Code of Rule 9)

(a) Permission must be obtained from the Sheffield & Hallamshire County F.A. Ltd. for all logos and/or the sponsors names to be printed on player's kit.

(b) PLAYERS NAMES MUST NOT BE PRINTED ON ANY ITEM OF PLAYING OR NON-PLAYING KIT

(c) All shirts must have numbers on the backs.

DR 9 PLAYING SEASON, CONDITIONS OF PLAY TIMES OF KICK-OFF POSTPONEMENTS, SUBSTITUTIONS ((relates to Standard Code of Rule 10)

(a) Any Club wishing to cancel a fixture shall, not less than 4 weeks prior to the fixture (14 days in the case of the first two fixtures of the season) submit a postponement request on the league admin site. Prior to submitting the application,

The Club must liaise with the opposition team to provide an alternative fixture date. On approval a £2 administration fee will be payable. If permission is granted, the Competition Secretary will inform both clubs involved and the fixture will be rescheduled. However if both managers are agreeable, only 7 days' notice is required. If cancelling after 28 days and 7 days before the fixture the requesting team must submit a request on the league admin site which will generate an email to the opposition team. **if not in agreement, the opposing team must send an email to the League secretary to confirm.** The league to have the power to have discretionary input when a case presents exceptional circumstances to grant a postponement if both teams are in agreement 6 to 1 day before the fixture. Teams are only allowed to put in a maximum of two requests per season.

In the U17/U18 age groups - Games can be postponed/moved forward or back at any point if both teams are in agreement - via registrar. If both teams are not in agreement – teams must submit a postponement request via the league admin site and the above rules apply. (maximum 4 requests per season).

Once notified of the postponement, clubs must re-arrange the fixture and notify the League Secretary within fourteen days of the date of the notification from the Competition Secretary.

(b) Cancellations will not be allowed except in the case of weather abandoned or ground conditions as ruled by a Referee or when Cup/Trophy games take precedence. Offences against this Instruction shall be dealt with by the Management Committee in accordance with this Instruction.

Notification of the reason for any cancelled game must be sent to the Registration Secretary in accordance with the provisions of this Instruction. The cancelled game must be rearranged and the new date submitted to the Registration Secretary in writing, by both Clubs, within fourteen days of the postponement of the fixture date. Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a minimum fine of £10-00 or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(c) If the home pitch is unfit for play, the game must be played on the away teams pitch if available and playable and the kick-off time will not be affected, unless mutually agreed. In all cases every effort must be made to play the fixture on the date scheduled. If a club agrees to switch a fixture the switching of venues for the return fixture must be upheld if possible so that no side has the advantage of two home fixtures.

(d) The time of kick-off shall be;

U7's to U10's 09.30am to 3:00pm kick-off slots.

U11's to U14's from 09.30am to 4:00pm. With both teams agreement.

U15/16 kick-off from 09.30am to 6:00pm. With both teams agreement.

U17/18 kick off from 09.30am to 6pm. With both teams agreement.

All above kick-offs to be agreed by both managers and confirmed.

Requests for earlier kick-offs go to the management committee for approval.

If no agreement reached then the kick off time reverts to between 09.30am and 3.00pm. (10am – 3pm for u17s/18s)

(e) The home team must inform the opposition and the match Official(s) if changing facilities are not available.

(f) Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

(g) Clubs not completing their fixtures shall be fined at the discretion of the Management Committee for each unfulfilled fixture. The Management Committee shall have the power to order all un-played games to be played. Any team not completing the season's scheduled fixtures may, at the discretion of the Management Committee, be subject to re-election at the following AGM. If re-elected that team shall start the following season in the lowest Division of their age group.

(h) A team may be fined if they compete with a number of players between the minimum and maximum permitted.

A minimum of players listed below shall constitute a team:-

In the Under 7 and 8 age groups, 4 players per team shall constitute a team.

In the Under 9 and 10 age groups, 5 players per team shall constitute a team.

In the 9v9 format, 6 players per team shall constitute a team

In the 11v11 format, 7 players shall constitute a team

(i) This Competition does not permit the playing of double-header games.

(j) The league actively promotes the Respect Programme through implementation of:

- The Respect Codes of Conduct

- Designated Spectator Area for games
- Captains taking more responsibility for the behaviour of the players
- Referee managing the game
- * The Fair Play handshake taking place prior to the start of all fixtures

(k) 11v11 fixtures can be played on a Saturday, provided both teams agree.

DR 10 REPORTING RESULTS ((relates to Standard Code of Rule 11)

(a) The prescribed manner will be instructed on a separate instruction sheet delivered to managers with the seasons fixture lists. Teams will be fined £5 per missing item up to a maximum of £10 for missing items on a submitted match sheet.

(b) If the match card is not received within the required time, it shall be deemed a late card and a fine of £5-00 shall be imposed. If after 10 days the match card has still not been received, a fine of £10-00 shall be imposed and/or dealt with as the Management Committee deem necessary. The Management Committee shall have power to take such action, as they deem suitable against a Club, which submits an incomplete result card or with incorrect information.

(c) In the under 11 to under 18 age group, it is the responsibility of the manager to enter the names of their players on the match card/result sheet.

(d) The award of 50 or less sporting points must have an accompanying letter/emails of explanation or be fined £10-

(e) It is the responsibility for the home team to report results to the League's results service between 12noon and 10pm on Sunday's. Any Club not reporting their results shall be fined £5.00 for each missing result

(f) The team Manager shall sign the match card at the end of the game to signify that:-

(i) They have inspected their opponent's squad sheet downloaded from the FA Whole Game System, thus confirming that those players are eligible. If, during, or after the game, it is found out that a player is not included on a squad sheet downloaded from the FA Whole Game System, both managers will be charged with a breach of competition rules and if found guilty both teams will be fined £50 for each unregistered player.

(ii) Ensure that all information is correct.

(g) If marking the referee less than 50, then a letter / email must be sent to the appropriate age-group registrar explaining why. If no such letter / email is received a £10 fine will be issued.

DR11 TO DETERMINE CHAMPIONSHIP, FAIR PLAY AWARD, WITHDRAWAL OF TEAMS (relates to Standard Code of Rule 12)

(a)

(i) Any new teams entering the Competition shall be placed in the lowest division unless they can offer compelling evidence to the contrary.

(ii) Teams who finish in the top two or bottom three of each division, can apply to be promoted/demoted more than one division. Each request must be made up to 7 days after the League AGM, or as directed by the management committee. The League Management Committee will look at all requests made of this nature. A team may request to be promoted two divisions at the League committees discretion.

(iii) Clubs with teams in the 7v7 format, moving to 9v9 after the normal promotion and relegation rules have been applied, can put forward a case to the League management committee to be placed in either the division above or below their mini-soccer position based on the previous year's results. Each request must be made up to 7 days after the AGM, or as directed by the management committee.

(b) Any team withdrawing from the Competition shall be fined a minimum of £25 and all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting club shall be expunged from the Competition table.

(c) Any team withdrawing from the Competition after the commencement of the season who wish to re-enter the following season, shall only be allowed to re-enter in the lowest Division, subject to their re-election being granted at the following AGM.

(d) A fair play mark is awarded by each team to their opponents and is entered on the match card. The team in each Division awarded the highest overall average fair play points shall be the Divisional Fair Play Award Winner. If more than one team finishes at the top of the fair play league of the Division with equal points, the winner shall be the team with the

most "high individual" match marks, i.e. the most 100's, the most 90's etc. and will apply to league matches only. If still level, this award shall be made at the discretion of the Management Committee. The team awarded the highest overall average fair play points in the age group will be the Fair Play Award Winner.

(e) Any player transferring to a new club must have done so by Feb 29th and must compete in at least 6 league games to qualify for a division winners and runners up medal at the new club

DR 12 REFEREES (relates to Standard Code of Rule 13)

(a) The home team shall appoint a qualified Referee except in Cup and Trophy final matches when the Competition shall appoint the match Officials. The home team shall inform the opposition if this is not possible and offer the opposition the opportunity to provide a qualified Referee. If a qualified Referee has not been provided by either club, the clubs shall agree upon a Referee.

(c) In every age group, if it is to the benefit of the Competition, the Management Committee may appoint a neutral Referee to any game.

(d) All Referees MUST be offered payment.

(e) All referees are to be paid prior to the game commencing by either cash/bacs transfer.

DR13 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS (relates to Standard Code of Rule 19)

Any continuing member Club failing to be represented at the Special General Meeting shall be fined £10 if they have tendered their apologies and £20 if no apologies have been received.

DR14 RULES BINDING ON CLUBS (relates to Standard Code of Rule 21)

(a) Officials, players, spectators and supporters of the Clubs participating in this Competition (whether parents, relatives or friends), shall conduct themselves in a manner befitting the Football Association and supervision of the children under their control, without prejudice to race, colour or creed and in keeping with a moral code of conduct as set out in these Rules & Regulations when dealing with children using tolerance, restraint and understanding at all times and act with responsibility and consideration suitable to the age group of the player.

The drinking of alcohol, smoking and vaping is prohibited to take place pitchside at any Junior League Football Match. This relates to all spectator viewing areas, be it grandstands, walkways or the pitchside area itself, including technical areas.

(b) The following must be available at all matches for inspection by a Competition Officer or County F. A. Representative or in the case of the squad sheets, the opposing Manager or their representative. First aid kit, squad sheet. The squad sheet must have been generated directly from the FA Whole Game System and can be produced in hard copy (laminated or un laminated) or electronically (live on the Whole Game System/as a screenshot from the Whole Game System)

Failure to have the rule book and first aid kit available will result in a fine of £20

If either team are unable to produce a squad sheet in the above format the game should not be played.

(c)

(i) Permission must be obtained from the Management Committee for a Club or Team to launch a web site.

(ii) If anyone wishes to video a match, the permission of all parties must be obtained.

Please remember: The Domestic Rules are voted on by you, the Member Clubs of this League. They are therefore your Rules. The Committee merely enforces them.

By Order of the League Management Committee Match day procedure All teams must have in place:

- A technical area for each teams with up to 3 officials allowed in this

- All spectators on one side of the play – with the technical area on the other side
- All teams must have a copy of the League Rule Book
- All teams must provide the opposition with a list of their team prior to kick off and to the ref.
- All teams must have a First Aid Kit
- A squad sheet produced from the FA Whole Game System in either hard copy or electronically

No Squad Sheet – No Game – No exceptions

Having no phone signal will not be accepted in mitigation

If the home pitch is unfit for play, the game must be played on the away teams pitch if available and playable and the kick-off time will not be affected, unless mutually agreed. In all cases every effort must be made to play the fixture on the date scheduled. If a club agrees to switch a fixture the switching of venues for the return fixture must be upheld if possible so that no side has the advantage of two home fixtures.

Season start and end dates will be confirmed at AGM. Teams are encouraged to play midweek fixtures during September. The League may schedule midweek fixtures. Matches should kick off between 0930am and 3pm on a Sunday. For Saturday fixtures, kick off between 10-12. Any kick off times outside these hours should be agreed by the team managers and the age-group registrar. Teams should also consider if they really do need to request a postponement of a fixture.

RULES OF MINI SOCCER

The Rules of the Sheffield & District Junior Sunday League shall apply to this Mini Soccer Competition with the addition of the following: -

1. Games may be played on Saturday or Sunday and the home team shall decide which day. Teams who wish to play their home games on Saturdays must declare this to the league by the 31st July. Saturday playing teams should be clearly shown on fixture lists, divisional lists and web pages etc.

If a team (who normally plays home games on a Sunday) wishes to play a game on a Saturday they must give their opponents 14 days' notice and both teams (home and away) must be in agreement before the fixture can take place on the Saturday.

2. The number of players in each age group will be:

Under 7 - One team of five players with five roll-on, roll-off substitutes maximum per team.

Under 8 - One team of five players with five roll-on, roll-off substitutes maximum per team.

Under 9 - One team of seven players with five roll-on, roll-off substitutes maximum per team.

Under 10 -One teams of seven players with five roll-on, roll-off substitutes maximum per team.

3. Each player in the mini soccer game will be included on a squad sheet which must be carried at all games. Managers are responsible for the completion of the mini soccer match cards

4. If, during or after the game, it is found that a player does not appear on an authorised squad sheet, both clubs will be charged with a breach of Competition Rules.

RULES FOR THE VARIOUS CUP COMPETITIONS

1. Cup Competitions shall be played each season and shall be confined to member teams of the League. The Cup and Trophy competitions shall be sponsored and the name of the sponsor used in the title of the competitions.

The U12 to U16 Competitions are currently called Cup, Trophy, Plate, Shield, Vase, Cannikin, Demitasse and Guerdon.

2. The entry fee shall be inclusive with the League fee and set each year by the management committee. Entry of Clubs is compulsory.

3. Save as set out below, the Rules of the Sheffield & District Junior Sunday League shall apply. The entire control and management of the Cup and Trophy competitions shall be vested in the Management Committee of the Competition. As Cup Competitions take precedence over League games these Cup rules take priority over Domestic League game rules.

4.

(i) No player shall play for more than one team in each Competition. I.e. A player can play for a team in the Vase and another one in the Cup, but cannot play for two teams in the Vase in the same age-group.

(ii) All U12 to U18 matches prior to the semi-final must be played to completion on or before the scheduled fixture date. All Cup matches to take precedence over League fixtures. In the event of a postponement, due to conditions over which the home club has no control, the fixture should be reversed to the opponents ground if available and the kick off will not change, unless both team agree to a change in the kick off time. If the game is not played then it is rescheduled for the following weekend.

5.

(a) The teams drawn at away in the semifinal will pay the referee fee. The home drawn team will have had to pay for the pitch. The semi-finals dates will be set on the published fixture grid.

(b) The final match of all Competitions shall be played on neutral grounds and the cost thereof shall be borne by the Competition. The cost of Match Officials shall be borne by the Competition. This date will be set on the published fixture list.

(c) If, in the final match and in the opinion of the Referee, both teams have the same or similar colours, both teams shall change.

6. Non-fulfilment of an U12 to U18 Competition fixture may result in the offending team forfeiting the game.

7. In the Under 12 to Under 18 age groups and based on the previous seasons league position, after allowing for promotion and relegation, the teams will be allocated into the various Cup competitions. There will be no more than 16 teams in any one Competition. Starting with the "A" division(s) who will be allocated firstly to the Cup Competition and working down the Divisions from there teams will be drawn into the various competitions.

For example if 17 "A" division sides 1 team will be drawn to be placed into the Trophy Competition.

8.

If the scores are level at the end of the allocated playing time for U12 to U18 matches, the match will be decided by kicks from the penalty spot as follows;

(i) A series of five (5) kicks from the penalty spot shall be taken by each team against the opponent's goalkeeper. The teams to take alternate kicks. F.I.F.A. and F.A. Rules for penalty kicks shall apply and the Referee shall decide which goal is to be used.

(ii) The team scoring the most goals shall be adjudged to be the winning team.

(iii) Should each team score the same number of goals in this series of kicks from the penalty spot then sudden death shall apply.

9.

It shall be the responsibility of the home team to report the match result to the league by 10pm on a Sunday. Failure to do so will incur a fine determined by the Management Committee.

Parent / Spectator Misconduct

1. Respect and Conduct Obligation

All clubs participating in the League shall ensure that players, parents, carers, relatives, guardians, spectators, coaches and club officials comply with:

- a) The Rules and Regulations of The Football Association and the relevant County Football Association;
- b) The FA Respect Codes of Conduct; and
- c) The League's safeguarding, welfare and conduct requirements.

Each Club shall be responsible for the conduct of its players and associated spectators before, during and after any fixture.

2. Spectator and Parent Misconduct

Any parent, carer, relative, guardian or spectator associated with a player or club who engages in misconduct may be subject to disciplinary action.

Misconduct shall include, but not be limited to:

- abusive, threatening, intimidating or discriminatory language or behaviour;
- conduct bringing the League or game into disrepute;
- interference with match officials;
- aggressive behaviour towards players, coaches, volunteers or spectators;
- entering the field of play without permission;
- conduct creating a safeguarding or welfare concern.

This Rule applies to conduct occurring before, during or after a match or League event.

3. League Powers and Sanctions

Where misconduct is established, the League may impose such sanctions as it considers appropriate and proportionate, including:

- a) verbal or written warnings;
- b) touchline bans;
- c) suspension from attendance at League fixtures;
- d) requirements to complete Respect or safeguarding education;
- e) club fines or disciplinary measures;
- f) referral to the County FA; and/or
- g) any other sanction reasonably necessary to protect participants, volunteers, match officials or the integrity of the competition.

4. Safeguarding and Welfare Measures Affecting Player Participation

Where the conduct of a parent, carer, relative, guardian or associated spectator:

- a) creates an ongoing safeguarding, welfare or safety risk;
- b) seriously undermines the League's Respect principles;
- c) prevents fixtures from being conducted safely or properly; or
- d) involves repeated or serious misconduct despite previous warnings or sanctions,
- e) the League Management Committee may impose restrictions upon the associated player's participation where such action is reasonably necessary and proportionate for safeguarding or disciplinary purposes.

Such measures may include:

- requiring the player to attend fixtures without the attendance of the offending adult;
- requiring a different responsible adult to supervise the player;
- temporary suspension of the player pending compliance with League directions; or
- suspension from League fixtures in exceptional circumstances.

The welfare and best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration in any decision made under this Rule.

5. Procedural Fairness

No sanction affecting a player's participation shall be imposed unless:

- a) the Club and relevant parent/carer have been notified of the alleged misconduct;
- b) they have been given a reasonable opportunity to respond;
- c) the League Management Committee has considered the proportionality of the proposed sanction; and
- d) a right of appeal is provided in accordance with League Rules.

6. Relationship with FA Rules

These Rules shall operate in conjunction with, and not in substitution for, the Rules, Regulations and disciplinary jurisdiction of The Football Association and the relevant County Football Association.

By Order of the Management Committee

Rules for the Cup Competitions in Part 1 – U7 - U11s

These are usually straight forward knockout tournaments split into groups of 4.

Semis played on the ground of the team named first. For instance, in fixtures like team 1 v team 2 and team 3 v team 4, teams 1 and 3 are the home teams.

The exception to this is where there are groups of 3 or 5. These fixtures will be played as per the fixture schedule on the ground of the club stated thereon.

There may also be matches played on a home and away basis if there are only 2 teams in the competition.

If team unable to host the Cup Secretary to be informed ASAP.

If a team cannot play, then the game will be forfeited.

If a game is postponed, then Teams are able to play midweek or up to the following Saturday provided their scheduled Sunday opponents and the League are informed by Monday evening following a postponement on the previous day. In the event of a postponement, due to conditions over which the home club has no control, the fixture should be reversed to the opponent's ground if available and the kick off will not change, unless both team agree to a change in the kick off time.

Extra Time to be played;

U7/U8

Five minutes each way

U9-U11

Ten minutes each way

Followed by penalties.

Rules for the Cup Competitions in Part 2 – U7 – U8s

As per part one.

U9/10/11 End of Season Cup Competitions.

1. There will be various competitions named Cup, Trophy, Plate, Shield, Vase, Cannikin, Demitasse, Guerdon and Crown.
2. These are straightforward knockout games as per the fixture list.
3. Winners progress as normal.
4. Finals will be played at Neutral Venues. These will be notified as soon as known.
5. Final referees supplied by the League.
6. If a team cannot play then the game will be forfeited
7. If a game is postponed then Teams can play midweek or up to the following Saturday provided their scheduled Sunday opponents and the League are informed by Monday evening following a postponement on the previous day.
8. no extra time
9. Penalties as per Cup Competition Rules 9(a) and 9(b)

PENALTIES

In the event of penalties being required they will be as follows and under FIFA rules.

U7 & U8

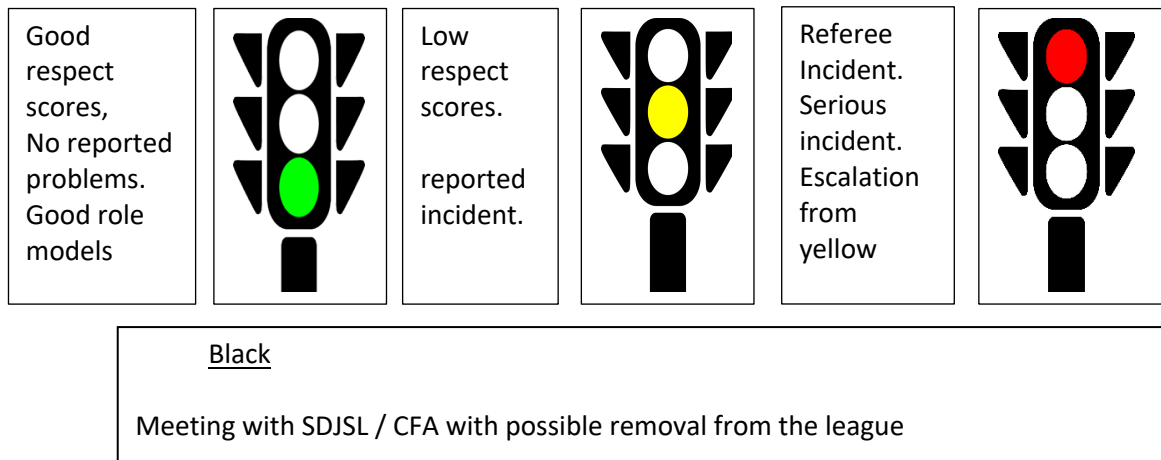
4 penalties per team. If level, then sudden death. So, all outfield players take penalties

U9/U10/U11

5 penalties per team. If level sudden death.

Traffic Light System Guidelines – Season 2026/27

The Traffic Light System (TLS) is an initiative by the SDJSL put in place to improve behaviors. This approach is to empower and assist clubs and to ensure that all involved have the best experience.



There are three ways to trigger entry/movement in the Traffic Light System

Automatic red triggers

Reports of Referee Abuse Spectators entering field of play. Serious incidents on the pitch

Automatic Yellow Triggers

Reported misconduct Reports from League Welfare officers Low respect scores

Teams stay on coloured status pending Investigation outcome.

The duration spent on stages will vary, one incident will place a team on yellow for a minimum period of three months unless immediately actioned, (example; Manager/player removed from team.)

The red stage will be a period of six months (playing season).

If a second trigger happens whilst a team is on yellow then the status changes to red, two reds then equal black.

The response from clubs has been very encouraging already we see clubs actioning interventions following publication of last season's respect scores, as requested – respect scores will be sent to clubs and reviewed monthly by the TLS team.

Managers will be required to report an incident to their club secretary, CWO or Chair – these are the only people who can escalate incidents via the smart sheet Link.

This will ensure clubs are always in the loop with their teams and could intervene themselves if appropriate.

All incidents of poor behaviour/concerns can be reported on the following form;

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/d484d8b50db14781b45698512c021fce>

TLS Further Guidance

The main message regarding the TLS is to ensure it is utilised for best outcome for all involved.

Step by step guidance

If you experience any concerns during a fixture that you feel the SDJSL need to be made aware about then please ensure you fill in the smart sheet link.

The TLS is in addition to the FA reporting system – please ensure both are used so we see an improvement in standards for the young people involved, (copy and paste on the forms is completely acceptable)

Reporting an Incident or concern.

Report to your club secretary/Club welfare and decide who will complete the smart sheet link.

This will ensure you receive immediate support or advice from your club.

When completing the form ensure you fill in to the best of your ability – it gives you the option to attach witness statements. Use the terminology used during the concern -it will not offend.

Keep details to description of the concerning event not the description of the fixture.

Ensure you record referee details so statements can be verified.

You will receive a notification to say the ticket has been picked up – no further action is required by yourself at this point. If any further information is required, you will be contacted.

You do not receive details of TLS outcome – so please do not request this.

Actions taken by clubs or the league are confidential to ensure GDPR compliance.

Having a report submitted about your team

First of all do not panic, the purpose of the TLS is to educate and ensure no repeat not to sanction unless absolutely necessary.

A report comes in, your club secretary is notified regarding the concern.

They contact you for a response – please ensure your respond in an open and honest fashion.

The league are aware problems arise – it is how these concerns are dealt with which has impact on the TLS outcome.

Interventions

All interventions will be aimed at empowering clubs and can vary according to specific need.

Empowered clubs knowing they have league and CFA support will be better able to manage concerns.

Clubs may need help with conduct forms – which will then help manage player/spectator behaviour.

Support at meetings, parents contacted directly if clubs have concerns or require additional support.

Access to refresher training – compulsory if required.

Safeguard training for spectators / parents to ensure the importance of understanding expectations.

Independent Match Observers (these reports will hold weight within the TLS investigation)

Spot checks by TLS team and/or CFA

Conversation and Education – some teams may not know what or where they are going wrong.

Interventions will be in response to incidents so can vary dramatically – all will be to ensure the best outcome.

Poor response from clubs will result in sanctions placed on teams until the league have reassurance there will be no repeat of undesirable behaviours.

Details of the appeal process can be found on the league website.

Any questions please contact teamstandardsmanager@junleague.com