

**Harrogate &
District JGFL
Rule Book**

2021/22

DEFINITIONS

1. (A) In these Rules:

“Affiliated Association”	means an Association accorded the status of an Affiliated Association under the rules of the FA.
“AGM”	shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.
“Club”	means a club for the time being in membership of the Competition.
“Competition”	means the “HARROGATE & DISTRICT JUNIOR GIRLS FOOTBALL LEAGUE.”
“Competition Match”	means any match played or to be played under the jurisdiction of the Competition.
“Contract Player”	means any Player (other than a Player on a Scholarship) who is eligible to play under a written contract of employment with a Club.
“Deposit”	means a sum of money deposited with the Competition as part of the requirements of membership of the Competition.
“Fees Tariff”	means a list of fees approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any matters for which fees are payable under the Rules, as set out at Schedule A.
“Fines Tariff”	means a list of fines approved by the Clubs at a general meeting to be levied by the Management Committee for any breach of the Rules, as set out at Schedule A
“Ground”	means the ground on which the Club’s Team(s) plays its Competition Matches.
“Management Committee”	means in the case of a Competition which is an unincorporated association, the management committee elected to manage the running of the Competition and where the Competition is incorporated it means the Board of Directors appointed in accordance with the articles of association of that company.
“Match Officials”	means the referee, the assistant referees and any fourth official appointed to a Competition Match.
“Mini Soccer”	means those participating at ages under 7s to under 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.
“Playing Season”	means the period between the date on which the first competitive fixture in the Competition is played each year until the date on which the last competitive fixture in the Competition is played.
“Rules”	means these rules under which the Competition is administered.
“Sanctioning Authority”	means [The FA] [the West Riding County Football Association Limited].
“Scholarship”	means a Scholarship as set out in Rule C 3 (a) (i) of the rules of the FA.
“Season”	means the period 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.
“WGS”	“Player Registration System” means The FA system to register players as determined by The FA from time to time.
“written” or “in writing”	means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise
“Youth Football”	means those participating at ages under 11s to under 18s.

(B) 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 HARROGATE & DISTRICT JUNIOR GIRLS FOOTBALL LEAGUE “**(or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist, or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.
- (B) This Competition shall consist of not more than 50 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be within a radius of 50 miles of the War Memorial in Harrogate Town Centre.
- (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 and their names and shall be returned annually by the appointed date in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions, *each not exceeding 12 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 recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.
 - (iii) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.
- (I) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including, but not limited to, Charter Standard and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
 - (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 County FA Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
 - (L) At the AGM or an 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.

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.
At the discretion of the voting members present applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the AGM or an SGM or on a date agreed by the Management Committee.
- (B) The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per *Team (where a Club has more than one Team in membership of the Competition)* and shall be payable on or before 31st August in each year.
- (C) *A Deposit of £10 shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club and shall be payable on or before 31st July in each year. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.*
- (D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee; annual subscription and Deposit (if required) have been paid.
- (E) If requested by the Competition, Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by the 30th June of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (F) An all-female team can apply to the Competition to play an age group down in a mixed gender competition, subject to rule 8A(iii)&(iv) and provided the team has obtained approval from its Sanctioning Authority.

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

5. (A) The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition who shall be the President, up to five (5) Vice- Presidents, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, League Secretary, Registrations Secretary, Referee's Appointment Secretary, Fixtures Secretary, Results Secretary and Divisional Secretaries and 2 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 the 30th April in each year.
All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two Clubs, not later than 30th 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.
- (F) The Management Committee shall periodically hold meetings of all Clubs with sufficient reasonable notice given at which all Clubs must be represented; any Club failing to be represented may be fined 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 of mitigation 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) [50%] 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 his 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 [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 forward a deposit of [twenty-five pound (£25)] and indicate such when forwarding the written response.
- (E) The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.
- (F) Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff), which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the appeal must also be sent to the Secretary. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority, in such respect the Sanctioning Authority may (but is not obliged to):
(i) invite submissions by the parties involved; or
(ii) convene a hearing to hear the appeal; or
(iii) permit new evidence; or
(iv) impose deadlines as are appropriate.
Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.
- (F) 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 [30th June] in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least [15] 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.
- (B) A copy of the duly *audited* balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting together with any proposed Rule changes.
- (C) A signed copy of the duly *audited* balance sheet and statement of accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM.
- (D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. 14 days' notice shall be given of any AGM.
- (E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Season being concluded. *This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 12.*
- (F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.
- (G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.
- (H) Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM.
- (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. Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call an SGM.
- The Management Committee may call an SGM at any time.
- 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.
- Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.
- Any Club failing to be represented at an SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs.

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

10. Each Club shall complete and sign the following agreement which shall be deposited with the Competition together with the application for membership for the coming Season, or upon indicating that the Club intends to compete.
- "We, (A), (name) [] of (address) [] (Chairman)/Director and (B) (name) [] of (address) [] (Secretary/Director) of [] Football Club (Limited) have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the [] Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the

decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.”

The agreement shall be signed by:

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

Any alteration of the chairman and /or secretary of the Club on the above agreement must be notified to the West Riding County Football Association(s) to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary.

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

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 at least [7] days before the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.*
- (B) The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6(I), in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee shall be empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

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 proved guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a Player or Players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to 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 [28th February]. If the cup or trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care, we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.”
- Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (B) At the close of each Competition awards may be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

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 an SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season.
- Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by [the 28th February] in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be

circulated to the Clubs by [the 31st March] and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by [the 30th April-]. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if ~~2/3~~[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 fifty pounds [£50] shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.
- (C) The financial year of the Competition will end on [the 31st May].
- (D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be *audited* annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

INSURANCE

16. (A) All Clubs must always have valid public liability insurance cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000).
- (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 an SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.
- (B) In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.
- (C) The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:
- (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: -

(a) *registered through WGS.*

For Clubs registering Players via WGS (under Rule 18 (A) Clubs must access WGS in order to complete the registration process.

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

(B) (i) Contract Players are not permitted in this Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under contract with the same Club who have a Team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System.

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

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

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

FORMAT	MINIMUM
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. 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	Eligible Age Groups	Maximum Permitted	Minimum Pitch Sizes		Maximum Pitch Sizes		Recommended Goal Sizes in feet	Ball Size
			Yards	Metres	Yards	Metres		
6	Under 7	5v5	30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	3

	Under 8		30 x 20	27.45 x 18.3	40 x 30	36.3 x 27.45	12 x 6	
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	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	
8	Under 9	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.9 x 36.6	12 x 6	3
	Under 10		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	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	
10	Under 11	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
	Under 12		70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	
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	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	
12	Under 13	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	4
	Under 14		90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	
13	Under 14	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21 x 7	4
	Under 15		90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	
14	Under 15	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	5
	Under 16		90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24 x 8	
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 x 91.44	24 x 8	

(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 priority of registration shall decide for which Club the Player shall be registered. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the Player of the fact of the previous registration 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: -

- (i) Play for more than one Team in the same age group in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.
- (ii) Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season, except if the provisions set out in Rule 18 (E) (iii) apply.
- (iii) Submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through the Player Registration System for registration that the Player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

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

- (G) (i) The Management Committee shall have the power to 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 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 C2(a) when a Club wishes to register a player who ~~is~~ already registered with another club it shall submit a transfer form (in a format as determined by the Competition) to the Competition accompanied by a fee as set out in the Fees Tariff. Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the club for which the player is registered. Should this club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the player concerned within 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 [7] 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 [the first Sunday in April-] 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 Player registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Registrations Secretary on the Whole Game System 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).

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

- (L) (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:
- (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; or
 - (b) Levy penalty points against the Club in default; 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): -

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

CLUB COLOURS

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

Any Team wishing to change its colours during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Management Committee.

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* 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, and 9v9 football, the Rules as set down by the FA.

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

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. 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).

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.

Playing Season, Conditions of Play, Times of Kick-Off, Postponements, Substitutes, Rule 20(A)

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 and Under 8	5	10	10	20	40	60	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 2 week periods (6 weeks)

Under 9 and Under 10	10	12.5	20	25	60	90	Development focused 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 focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 6 week periods (18 weeks)
Under 12	N/A	N/A	20	30	80 (if applicable)	120	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 13 and Under 14	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 U7 to U10 can be played in either quarters. This Competition uses quarters.

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 [7] 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 Divisional 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 and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least [7] clear days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. If not so provided, the away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

FORMAT	MINIMUM
5v5	4
7v7	5
9v9	6
11v11	7

(E) (i) In competitions where points are awarded, home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have the power to impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff), deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the Competition Match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals.

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

(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 Divisional Secretary within [4] 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. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(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.

(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 Association Football.

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

In Youth Football only, the referee shall be informed of the names of the substitute Players not later than [15] minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match.

A Player who has 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 five [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) Requests for postponements, of which there shall be a maximum of three (3) allowed in any one playing season, must be made in writing to the appropriate Divisional Secretary by letter or e-mail at least ten (10) days prior to the match date for which the postponement is requested for. The league shall provide at least 10 days' notice of a revised fixture date. In exceptional circumstances, where 10 days hasn't been provided by the Management Committee, the case of a revised match date, both Teams shall have twenty-four (24) hours from receipt of the notice given of the revised match date, to be able to request a postponement. A request for a postponement relating to a revised fixture date shall not be counted in the permitted 3 (as above).
- (J) Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

REPORTING RESULTS

- 21. (A) The Secretary must receive within [5] days of the date played, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) *and the referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition*. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (B) The Home Club/both Clubs shall SMS notify the result of each Competition Match to the [FA Full Time / FA Matchday as directed by the competition by [18.00 hours on the day of the match or in the case of a mid-week fixture by 21.00 hours]. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Club, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (D) The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect but NOT publish results or any grading tables for fixtures involving Under 7s, Under 8s, Under 9s, Under 10s, and Under 11s. Any Competition failing to abide by this Rule will be dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and any Club failing to abide by this Rule will be fined in 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.

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

Committee, or the position shared.

- (B) Automatic promotion shall be applied for the first 2 Teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last 2 Teams in each division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 2(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
 - (iii) The last [2] Teams in the lowest division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of Rule 22 (B)(i) above.
 - (iv) Should either or both of the leading Teams in any of the divisions have a Team in the next higher division, promotion shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next highest Team or Teams in the division concerned.
 - (v) Should either or both of the relegated Teams in any of the divisions have a Team in the next lower division, relegation shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next lowest Team or Teams in the division concerned.
- (C) 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 inclusive of travel expenses.
- Match Officials will be paid their fees and expenses by the home Club 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 travelling expenses only. 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) *Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.*

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), 7(E)	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 (G)	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£100.00
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	£30.00
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£100.00
4(E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS	£100.00
5 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER	£25.00
6 (H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE	£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 SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN	£25.00
11 (A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE	£100.00
11 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£100.00
13 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN	£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	£25.00
18 (G)(ii)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£100.00
18(M)	FIELDING MORE THAN THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF	£100
18 (N)(i)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£100.00
18 (O)(i)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£50.00
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	£30
20(A)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE	£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	£100.00
20 (E) (i) & (iii)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£100.00
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(D)	PUBLISHING RESULTS/GRADING TABLES FOR FIXTURES	£50.00
23 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£25.00

23 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£25.00
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CUP COMPETITION RULES

THE RULES OF THE CUP COMPETITIONS

1. NAME

The Competitions shall be called the "HARROGATE & DISTRICT JUNIOR GIRLS FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP COMPETITIONS". The Cups shall be known as the Divisional Cups and played for by each age group, should the League obtain sponsorship the name of the Cup may be changed to reflect such sponsorship. The League may organise a Supplementary Cup Competition which may be played towards the end of the season and is for those Clubs who have completed their League commitments early.

2. OWNERS OF THE CUPS

The Chairman and Secretary who are Trustees of the Harrogate & District Junior Girls Football League shall be to all intents and purposes are the legal owners of the Cups, which are held by them in trust for and on behalf of the League. The Cups are the property of the League and cannot be won outright.

3. ENTRY FEE

The entry fee for each Cup Competition shall be £20 to be paid on or before the 30th June. The Cups shall be competed for annually in accordance with the Cup Competition Rules.

4. CONTROL OF THE COMPETITIONS

The Competitions will be administered by the Management Committee, who shall have the entire control and management of the Competitions, and the authority to deal with all questions of eligibility and or the interpretation of the Competition Rules; which, unless otherwise stated will be the Cup Rules of the Harrogate & District Junior Girls Football League supported by the League Rules and the Rules of the Football Association.

The Management Committee shall have the right to appoint a Sub Committee to deal with any matter that they deem appropriate. The decisions of the Management Committee are final and binding on all participants, subject to League Rule 7(F).

Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.

With the exception of Cup Rule 11, for all breaches of Rule a formal written charge must be issued to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given seven days from the date of notification of the charge to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to:

- (i) Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
- (ii) Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
- (iii) Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
- (iv) Deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee.
- (v) Accept the charge and pay the fine within fourteen (14) days

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

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

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

reference to the Fines Tariff where applicable.

The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £100 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances. No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

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

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

The decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within ten days.

5. COMPETITION FORMAT

(A) Cup Competitions shall be organised by the League Secretary on behalf of the Management Committee before the commencement of each season and shall be determined by the number of teams in each age group. Where appropriate the Cup Competitions shall be as detailed below.

(i) Divisional Cup: A knock out Cup Competition for all the teams in the age groups Under 12 to Under 18.

(ii) Supplementary Cup: The Competition is by invitation of the Management Committee and is dependent on the progress of League matches and other Cup matches. Generally, this Competition may be played towards the end of the season by teams no longer involved in the Divisional Cup Competitions and who may have finished their League commitments early. The Competition may be played on a League basis or in any other format that the Management Committee decides.

(B) Dates for the Divisional Cup Finals shall be set at the commencement of each season and shall be non-negotiable by member clubs.

(C) League Rule 18(M) (iii) regarding player qualification in Cup Competitions must be strictly adhered to. Team Managers shall retain their teams ID Cards and make them available to their opposite number prior to the start of any match organised by the Competition and to any member of the Management Committee present and requesting same. If a Team Manager fails to produce player ID Cards in respect of his or her team prior to the commencement of the match, then the match shall not go ahead. The team in default shall forfeit the match and the points and in addition the Management Committee may fine and or otherwise deal with the offending team. This includes competitive games in the Mini Soccer Age Groups.

Where ID Cards are exchanged it shall be the responsibility of each Team Manager to check them against the players named on the Match Result Sheet. Completion and signature on the Match Result Sheet by both Team Managers shall signify they have seen an ID Card for each player so named

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WHATSOEVER CAN A PLAYER PLAY IN ANY MATCH IN THIS COMPETITION IF HIS OR HER ID CARD IS NOT PRODUCED FOR INSPECTION PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MATCH.

Any player(s) taking part in a Cup Match, who's ID Card was not available for inspection before the game commenced, will be deemed ineligible and the Club shall be penalised in accordance with cup Rule 5(C).

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

Parents and spectators at all games must watch from one designated side behind the safety zone. They will not be permitted to stand behind or to the side of either goal. Coaches and substitutes will be positioned on the opposite side and only Coaches, Referees Assistants, and other approved personnel will be permitted to enter the safety zone.

The Referee will be empowered not to start or restart the game until the safety zone has been delineated and spectators excluded.

(D) Cup matches shall be played in accordance with the playing times listed in League Rule 20(A) and concluded on the day. In the event of a game being drawn in the Under 12 to Under 18 age groups extra time of 10 minutes each way shall be played. If the scores remain level after extra time the game shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the International Football Association Board procedure. Any team failing to comply with this Rule shall be duly expelled from the Competition.

(E) Divisional Cup Finals shall be played on neutral grounds with Officials appointed and paid for by the League. In the Semi-Finals of the Cup Competitions the first named team shall have home advantage. The League will appoint a Referee for all Semi-Finals with the Home Team paying the Match Officials Fee.

The first named team shall for the purpose of the match card be considered the Home Team but both Team Managers shall ensure that the Results Secretary, if she/he is not present at the Final Match, will be informed of the result. In the event of a colour clash, both teams shall be required to change their strip. Both teams shall likewise provide match balls as detailed in League Rule 20(A). In the event of the first named teams pitch being unsuitable for play on two named occasions the fixture shall be reversed, and the second named team shall then be deemed the first named team.

(F) (i) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players in a Cup match shall be expelled from the remainder of the Competition and shall be fined in accordance with the fines tariff for each offending player and or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee. This includes Competitive games in the Mini Soccer Age Group.

(ii) All players taking part in the Competition shall be fully and correctly registered in accordance with League Rule 18(A)(a). No player shall be eligible to play for more than one Club or Team in a Cup Competition in the current season. A player who has played for a Club or Team in the Divisional Cup shall be deemed Cup-Tied in that Competition should she/he transfer/register with another club or team during the season.

Notwithstanding, with the exception of the Semi-Final and Finals rounds each individual must have been a recognised playing member of the Club or Team for which she/he proposes to play at least seven (7) days prior to the date fixed for the playing of the Round. Only those players who are registered to play on the 31st January and who have played in at least three (3) matches for that team prior to the Semi-Final shall be eligible to play in the Semi-Final or Final Match.

A named substitute who does not actually play in a cup match is deemed not to be cup-tied.

6. CUP DRAW

(A) The date of each round shall be fixed by the Management Committee, the Clubs' shall be drawn in pairs, each pair shall play off, the winners shall again be drawn in pairs and these pairs shall compete with each other, as in the first round and so on until the last pair shall play each other in the Final match. The winning club shall hold the Cup under conditions provided for by these Rules. Representatives of all competing Clubs may be present at the draw. The club drawn first in each match shall have the choice of ground. Postponed matches shall be played on a date fixed by the Management Committee.

(B) When Competitions are played as group matches three points shall be awarded for a win and one point for a draw in the event of two or more teams having an equal number of points goal difference shall decide the rankings. If still equal, goals scored shall decide. If teams are still equal a deciding match will be played at a venue and date decided by the Management Committee. Such a deciding match to be played to a result including extra time and penalties as required. The teams finishing first and second in each group shall proceed to the Semi-Finals.

7. DIRECTIONS AND CLUB COLOURS

The home Club shall notify, at least five (5) clear days before the date of the match, travelling directions to the visitors and the match officials, they shall also confirm their colours. Where the colours of the two competing Clubs are similar, the home team must change. Goalkeepers must wear colours, which distinguish them from the other players, and will not be permitted to wear black or dark blue jerseys. Clubs must wear stockings, which are

distinguishable from those of their opponents. The backs of all shirts must be numbered.

8. MATCH OFFICIALS

(A) In all matches up to the Final the fees and expenses for Referees and Assistant Referees' shall be at the same rate as League Rule 23(E), and as listed in the Fees Tariff

(B) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee the appointed senior Assistant Referee shall take charge and a substitute Assistant Referee appointed by the competing Teams. In cases where there are no officially appointed Assistant Referees, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status, and authority of a registered Referee.

(C) Where grounds have barriers surrounding the pitch, all club officials, substitutes and supporters must remain behind the barriers. Where there are no barriers, all club official, substitutes, and supporters must stand back from the line, club officials must ensure that the Assistant Referees are not hindered or obstructed in their duties.

(D) Where a mark of 50 or less is awarded to the Referee, a written explanation, signed by the Secretary and the Chairman of the Club concerned, must be submitted to the League Secretary within five (5) days of the match. A Club failing to comply will be fined for each breach of the Rule in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

9. LATE STARTS

Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time will be fined as detailed in the Fines Tariff or maybe otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine depending on the circumstances. Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time if possible, and must report all late starts, and advise the captain(s) of the offending team(s) of his/her intention to do so.

10. REPEAT SUBSTITUTIONS

(A) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game may use substitute Players as detailed below in any match in this Competition. This Competition allows repeat substitutes in all Matches:

This Competition allows repeat substitutes in all Matches:

For Under 17s and Under 18s: up to five (5) substitute Players may be selected from five (5) substitute Players. A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace any Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

This Competition allows repeat substitutes in all Matches:

For Under 11s - Under 16s: up to five (5) substitute Players may be selected from five (5) substitute Players. A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace any Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

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

In Youth Football Only: The Referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than fifteen (15) minutes before the start of the match and a Player not so named may not take part in the match. A Player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a Player in that game within the meaning of Rule 8 of this Competition.

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

(C) The Teams taking part in 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 team-mates. Failure to comply

with any section of this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

11. REPORTING RESULTS

11(A) The Results Secretary must receive within five (5) days of the date played, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) and also the Referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to do so will incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(B) The Team Managers of both Clubs shall SMS text to the FA Full-Time system the result of each match by 1800 hours on the day of the match or in the case of a mid-week fixture by 2100 hours. Clubs in default shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Club, or as prescribed by the Competition. The Management Committee shall take such action, as they deem suitable against a Club which submits an incomplete form or incorrect information. Failure to do so will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

(E) The Competition may require a Club to confirm that a set fixture has been played; this shall include all matches played in the Development Age Group at Under 7s to Under 11s. A fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff may be imposed for a breach of this Rule.

12. FAILURE TO PLAY

In the event of a club failing to keep its engagement, the Management Committee shall impose a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff and award the match to their opponents; they shall order the defaulting club to pay any expenses incurred by their opponents.

In the event of both clubs failing to keep their engagement, the Management Committee shall impose a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff on both clubs; dismiss both clubs, from the Competition, order both clubs to pay half each of the Referee's and Assistant Referees' fees and expenses if in attendance, or otherwise deal them with at their discretion.

13. THE FINAL MATCH

In addition to the Cup the League shall present medals or mementoes to the players in the Final match. A player sent from the field of play by the Referee shall not be allowed to attend the presentation ceremony his memento will be withheld at the discretion of the Management Committee.

The Final match shall be played to a conclusion; if the scores are level at the end of normal time then extra time must be played if the scores are level after extra time the Final shall be decided by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the International Football Association Board procedure.

All Final matches shall be played on such grounds as the Management Committee determine

The Management Committee shall fix the charge for admission to the Semi Final matches (where appropriate) and the Final matches, as they deem advisable

In the Final match the League after paying out all the match expenses shall retain the entire gate proceeds.

Only eight persons in total will allowed in the Technical Area, a Club in breach will be dealt with under League Rule 6(H)

In the Final match the Referee and Assistant Referees shall receive a suitable memento from the League plus traveling expenses at twenty (20) pence per mile.

14. TROPHY: TAKING OVER THE AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED.

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 the _____ 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 the 28th February. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care, we agree to refund to the “HARROGATE & DISTRICT JUNIOR GIRLS FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP COMPETITION” the full amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.”

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

15. ALTERATION TO RULES

Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting 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.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the League Secretary by 28th February in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by the 31st March and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the League Secretary by the 30th April

The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present and entitled to vote, and voting, are in favour. A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the West Riding County Football Association no later than the 3rd May in the current season.

With regards to a Special General Meeting, a copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered, shall be submitted to the West Riding County Football Association, no later than fourteen days before the date scheduled for the Special General Meeting. Any alterations or additions decided upon at any meeting shall not become operative until the approval of the Association issuing sanction shall have been obtained.

16. PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

All Protests shall be made in accordance with League Rule 7 (F).

17. APPEALS

All Appeals shall be made in accordance with League Rule 7 (F).

18. OTHER MATTERS

In all matters which are not specially provided for in these Rules the Management Committee shall have the power to deal with any matter or question that concerns the Competition and is not so provided for in the Competition's League or Cup Rules, subject to League Rule 7 (F).

19. MISCONDUCT

Any misconduct by Club(s), Player(s), Official(s), or spectators; could result in the future application for participation by that Club, Clubs, Player(s), or Official(s) into the League Cup Competition(s) being refused.

20. FINES

The League Fines Tariff will be applicable when the Management Committee imposes financial penalties on Clubs' that are in breach of the Cup Competition Rules.

21. KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK PROCEDURE

If at the end of the match and before the kicks start to be taken from the penalty mark, one team has a greater number of players than its opponents; it must reduce its numbers to equate with that of its opponents and the team

captain must inform the referee of the name and number of each player excluded. Any player thus excluded may not participate in kicks from the penalty mark.

Before the start of kicks from the penalty mark the Referee must ensure that an equal number of players from each team remain within the centre circle and they shall take the kicks

The referee chooses the goal at which the kicks shall be taken.

The referee tosses a coin, and the team whose captain wins the toss decides whether to take the first or second kick.

The referee keeps a record of the kicks being taken.

Subject to the conditions explained below, both teams take five kicks.

The kicks are taken alternately by the teams.

If, before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could score, even if it were to complete its five kicks, no more kicks are taken.

If, after both teams have taken five kicks, both have scored the same number of goals, or have not scored any goals, kicks continue to be taken in the same order until one team has scored a goal more than the other from the same number of kicks.

A goalkeeper who is injured during the taking of kicks from the penalty mark and is unable to continue as goalkeeper may be replaced by a named substitute, provided his team has not used the maximum number of substitutes permitted under the Competition Rules.

With the exception of the foregoing case, only players who are on the field of play at the end of the match which includes extra time where appropriate, are allowed to take kicks from the penalty mark.

Each kick is taken by a different player and all eligible players must take a kick before any player can take a second kick.

An eligible player may change places with the goalkeeper at any time when kicks from the penalty mark are being taken.

All players, except the player taking the kick, and the two goalkeepers, must remain within the centre circle.

The goalkeeper who is the team mate of the kicker must remain on the field of play, outside the penalty area in which the kicks are being taken on the goal line where it meets the penalty area boundary line.

The other goalkeeper must remain on his goal line between the goalposts, facing the kicker until the ball is kicked.

Only the players and match officials are permitted to remain on the field of play when kicks from the penalty mark are being taken.

Unless otherwise stated, the relevant Laws of the Game and International Football Association Board Decisions apply when kicks from the penalty mark are being taken