

RULES OF THE NORTH WILTS & DISTRICT YOUTH & MINORS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

1. (A) This Competition shall be designated the North Wilts & District Youth & Minors Football League and known as the North Wilts & District Youth & Minors League and shall consist of not more than 100 Clubs who shall be Full Member Clubs.

All such Member Clubs must be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form "D" to the Wiltshire County Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be those Clubs who have grounds or headquarters situated within a radius of 30 miles from the Town Hall, Swindon.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Wiltshire County Football Association and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 16 in number.

The competition will provide 11-a-side football for players who have attained the age of 10 as at midnight 31st August in a playing season and Mini-Soccer for players who have attained the age of 6 years but not the age of 10 years as at midnight on 31st August in a playing season.

Teams entering do so on the understanding that matches, without exception, can be played on any day of the week.

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

ENTRY FEE / SUBSCRIPTION / DEPOSIT

2. (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional team(s) must be made in writing to the General Secretary and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee of £10 per team which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

At the discretion of a majority of the accredited voting members present applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting. The Entry Fee shall apply.

When Rule 12(B) is applied and a team seeks a transfer or is compulsorily transferred to another division no Entry Fee shall be payable.

(B) The Annual Subscription shall be **£30** per Team playing 11-a-side football and **£20** per Team playing Mini-Soccer payable on or before 30th June in each year.

(C) Each Club shall, upon election, pay a Deposit of £5 which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.

(D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Entry Fee, Annual Subscription and Deposit have been paid.

(E) Clubs must advise annually to the General Secretary in writing by 30th June of its relevant County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming season, failing which they shall be fined £5. Clubs must advise the General Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition.

OFFICERS

3. The Officers of the Competition shall be the President, Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, Registration Secretary, Referees Appointments Secretary, Fixtures Secretary, Results Secretary, Cups Secretary and Representative Games Secretary, Committee Members of the Competition shall be Referees Liaison, Rules Administrator, Publicity Manager, Course Co-ordinator, Child Protection, Representative Games Assistant and Officers, all to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting (N.B. Auditors are not Officers).

MANAGEMENT / NOMINATION / ELECTION

4. (A) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
(B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the General Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs, not later than 30th April in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting.

No person shall hold more than one position on the Management Committee.

(C) The Management Committee shall meet as often as is necessary to deal with business as it arises.

On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Members of the Management Committee the General Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee.

(D) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the General Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.

(E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their nominated Officers.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

5. (A) The Management Committee may appoint such other sub-committees as they may consider necessary and may delegate such of their powers, as they deem necessary, to such committees. The decisions of all such committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification.

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

(C) 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, the Office he/she holds, or to the Club so represented. (This shall apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).

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

(D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules. Except where these Rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty any Club, Official or Player alleged to be in breach of a Competition Rule must be formally charged in writing and given the opportunity to present their case before the Management Committee. All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of The Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with F.A. Rules.

(E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to the Board of Appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

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

(F) Four Members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and three Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by any sub-committee of the Competition.

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

(I) All fines and charges shall be paid to the Treasurer within 14 days of the date of posting of the written notification.

Clubs, Officials or individuals committing a breach of this Rule will incur such penalties as the Management Committee may impose.

The presentation of a cheque, which is subsequently dishonoured by the Bank or Building Society, will incur a fine of £10.

(J)

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

- a. To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
- b. To consider any business arising there from.

- c. To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
- d. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee).
- e. Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
- f. Election of Officers and Management Committee.
- g. Appointment of Auditors.
- h. Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
- i. Fix the date for the commencement and conclusion of playing season.
- j. Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.

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

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

(D) Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than fourteen days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.

(E) Clubs who have withdrawn their Membership of the Competition during the season being concluded or who are not continuing Membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the season being concluded.

(F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least one third 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 Full Member Club unless the individual is also appointed to vote as a representative of a group of Associate Member Clubs.

(H) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £50.

(I) Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting.

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

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

"We, A, _____ of _____ (Chairman) and
 B _____ of _____ (Secretary) of the
 _____ Football Club have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the North Wilts & District Youth & Minor Football League Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into Membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16."

Any alteration of the Chairman and/or Secretary on the above Agreement must be notified to the relevant County Football Association to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary of the Competition.
 (Note: The spaces above are intended for the inclusion of the signatures and addresses of officers and members).

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

8. (A) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, are not permitted in this Competition.

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

(B) A registered youth playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:-

- i. Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition Registration Form in ink, countersigned by his/her parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the Registration Secretary no later than 72 hours prior to playing and whose completed registration counterfoil has been received by the Club prior to playing. The registration document must incorporate any known serious medical conditions of the player and emergency contact details of the player's parents or guardians. These details must be available at matches and training events the player attends within the management of the Club or Competition.

Proof of date of birth will be required to be submitted to the relevant Registration Secretary with the completed Competition Registration Form where this information is not already held by the North Wilts & District Youth & Minors League. Any player who takes part in a match in breach of this Rule will be deemed to be an ineligible player for the purposes of Rule 8(Q).

If a player's age is required for registration purposes a Competition must accept an original birth certificate or a photocopy. In cases where the birth certificate is not available a Competition is required to accept a photocopy of the player's passport or other official document issued by a Government Agency attesting to the players' date of birth.

ii.

The qualification dates for the competition shall be as follows:

Mini-Soccer

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

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

Under 9 - The player must be under the age of 9 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

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

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

Mini-Soccer will be open to mixed sex teams.

The Under 7 and Under 8 age groups will be non-competitive.

Youth Football

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

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

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

Under 14 – The player must be under the age of 14 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 15 - The player must be under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 16 – The player must be under the age of 16 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 17 - The player must be under the age of 17 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 18 - The player must be under the age of 18 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

In accordance with the foregoing qualifications a player under the age of 14 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season must not play in a match where any other player is older or younger by 2 years or more.

(The above qualification dates are subject to the provisions contained in F.A. Rule C.4 (a) (V)).

Youth Soccer will be for boys only except at Under 11 where girls will also be allowed to play.

Teams will not be allowed to participate in the League unless they have at least eleven players registered in the case of Youth Football and at least seven players registered in the case of Mini-Soccer. Teams must register the minimum number of players at least five days prior to their first match of the season. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £10. If any game is postponed as a result, Rule 10F will also apply.

(C)

(D).....

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

(F) Registration Forms shall be obtained from the Registrations Secretary on prepayment of £1 per form. Teams must pay for a minimum of 20 forms at the start of each season in the case of Youth Football and a minimum of 10 forms in the case of Mini-Soccer. Once the initial Registration Fee is paid extra forms will be supplied by the Registration Secretary during the season at no extra charge to Clubs who provide an appropriately stamped addressed envelope.

All Registration Forms reaching the appropriate Registration Secretary must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope for the return of counterfoils. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £1 per application.

Fees paid for registration fees are not refundable.

(G) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.

In the event of a player signing a Registration Form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club, priority of registration shall decide for which Club the player shall be registered. The Registration Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

(H) It shall be deemed misconduct for a player to: -

i. Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season without first being transferred.

- ii. Having signed for one Club in the Competition, sign for another Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.
- iii. Submit a signed Registration Form for registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

(I) (i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player.

(ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player, at their discretion, proved guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 16).

(iii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse or cancel the registration of any player found guilty of undesirable conduct and to disqualify the player in question from participating in all games in the Competition. (Subject to Rule 16).

(Note: Action under Clause (ii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct on the field of play until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute.)

(J) Subject to the Football Association Rules dealing with players without a written contract when a player desires a transfer, the Club the player wishes to transfer to shall submit a transfer form to the Registration Secretary accompanied by a fee of £5. Such transfer shall be referred by the Registration Secretary 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 Registration Secretary and to the player concerned within seven days of receipt of the transfer form. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within seven days, the Registration Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or two 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.

A player shall not be allowed more than two transfers in the League in any one season. When a second transfer is approved both player and Club are to be advised that no further transfer will be considered during the current season.

(K) A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after the last day of February except by special permission of the Management Committee.

(L) A Club shall keep a list of the players it registers and a record of the games in which they have played, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee. Registrations are only valid for one season.

In the event a Club has more than one team in an age group, each team must be clearly designated "A" and "B" etc. In such cases players will be registered for one team only. A player so registered will be allowed to play for his Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 8 (B). Once a player has played for a younger or older age group team within the same club, then that player must not play for a different club team within that age group for the remainder of the season.

(M) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Registration Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one season only.

(N) A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation-deciding match (as specified in Rule 12(A)) unless the player has played six games for that team in this Competition in the current season.

(O)

(P) (i) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players shall have the points gained in the match deducted from its total and may be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee. The maximum fine that can be imposed for this offence, in addition to any points' deduction, shall be £25.

(ii) In addition the team will have a further one point deducted from its total and may be dealt with in any further manner which is thought to be fit.

(iii) The Management Committee may, at its discretion, award any points deducted from a Club under this Rule to the opponents in the match in question.

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

(Q) (i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities.

(ii) The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday Competitions).

(iii) Children under 14 shall not play in a team involving players who are more than 2 years older.

(Note: For players under the age of 18 the provisions contained in Football Association Rules will apply).

(iv) A player, registered with the North Wilts & District Youth & Minor Football League shall not be allowed to play in more than one Competition under the control of the North Wilts & District Youth & Minors League on the same day.

(v) A player, registered with the North Wilts & District Youth & Minor Football League shall not be eligible to play in any Competition under the control of the North Wilts & District Youth & Minor Football League if he is selected to play football for his School or Schools' FA Representative Team on the same day.

CLUB COLOURS / CLUB NAME

9. (A) Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the General Secretary by 30th June, who shall decide as to their suitability.

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

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

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

If, in the opinion of the Referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the home team shall make the change. In the event of a game being played on a neutral ground, such as a play-off, unless the two clubs agree between themselves as to which team will change, both teams will be required to change. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off by not having a change shall be fined £2.

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

Shirts should be numbered in all Competitions where competitive matches are played.

(B) Any Club wishing to change its name and/or colours must seek permission from its affiliated County Association and from the Management Committee.

PLAYING SEASON / CONDITIONS OF PLAY / TIMES OF KICK-OFF / POSTPONEMENTS / SUBSTITUTES

10. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall determine the commencing and concluding dates for the ensuing season which shall be in accordance with Football Association Rules. No Club shall be compelled to play after the concluding date. Original fixtures arranged by the Fixtures Secretary, or at a meeting specially convened for that purpose, to be held no later than 21 days before the season commencement date, must not be arranged for a date later than seven days preceding the concluding date determined by the Annual General Meeting.

Where matches need to be rearranged by the Fixtures Secretary, Clubs shall whenever possible, be given a minimum of seven days notice.

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

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

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

All matches shall have a duration as set out below unless a shorter time (not less than 40 minutes for Youth football, but see also below) is mutually arranged by the two captains in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

For Mini-Soccer – The recommended duration of play shall be as follows: for under 7 and under 8 age groups, 15 minutes each way and for under 9 and under 10, 25 minutes each way. The maximum playing time in any one day for under 7 and under 8 age groups is 45 minutes and for under 9 and under 10 age groups is 60 minutes.

For Youth football – The duration of play shall be as follows unless it is mutually agreed by all parties to reduce the time. For under 11 and under 12, 30 minutes each half; for under 13 and under 14, 35 minutes each half and under 15 and under 16, 40 minutes each half; under 17 and under 18, 45 minutes each half.

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

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

The times of kick-off shall be fixed by the A.G.M. or the Management Committee. Games will be permitted to take place either in the morning or afternoon at weekends and, in the case of midweek matches, in the early evening. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time may be fined a sum not exceeding £10 or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

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

Each Team playing in the North Wilts & District Youth & Minors League will advise the Management Committee of their normal kick-off time prior to the commencement of the season. If Teams wish to change this kick-off time for a particular match they must seek sanction from the Fixture Secretary. Failure to seek such permission will result in a fine of £5. The times of kick-off must be notified to the opposition at least five days before the date of the actual match.

The home team must provide at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. The recommended size of football to be used shall be: For Mini-Soccer, size 3 for players in the under 7 and 8 age categories; size 4 for under 9's and 10's. For youth football – size 4 for those playing under 11, 12, 13 and 14 age groups; size 5 for all other age groups. Goal nets must be used.

(C) Except by permission of the Management Committee (through the Fixture Secretary or, in his absence, the General Secretary) all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed by the Fixtures Secretary but priority shall be given to The Football Association and all relevant County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the Fixtures Secretary.

Where permission is sought to postpone a game, permission will only be deemed to have been given where the Clubs involved have been issued in writing by the Fixture Secretary, or in his absence the General Secretary, a letter stating that: "Permission is hereby granted for the match between Club A and Club B at Under X scheduled for Date to be postponed and no charge will be raised under Rule 10F."

(D) The Secretary (or official representative) of the home Club must give notice in writing of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the appointed referee and the Secretary (or official representative) of the opposing Club at least five clear days prior to the playing of the match.

The location of the ground will be deemed to be as specified in the League's current Handbook or as amended by notice in the League's current season Newsletter unless otherwise advised.

Any Club failing to comply with this Rule, thereby causing the fixture to be postponed on the day, shall be liable to a fine of £20, shall forfeit three points to its opponents, be liable to pay legitimate expenses claimed by its opponents and be liable for the appointed referee's full fee and expenses.

(E) Every Club shall play its best available qualified team or teams in all matches in the Competition.

In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than eleven players they may be fined £1 for each missing player. A minimum of seven players will constitute a team for a Competition match.

(F) Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club postponing a match without permission of the Fixtures Secretary or otherwise failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have power to inflict a fine, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents and match officials or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals.

Any Club, responsible for postponing a game without the permission of the Fixture Secretary in accordance with Rule 10(C) more than five days prior to the date of the match shall be fined £10 for the first infringement and £20 for the second. A third infringement (whether for more or less than 5 days) will trigger a review meeting with a League sub-committee to discuss the reasons for the team's postponements and to decide any further action or penalties. This could include but is not limited to expulsion of the team from the League for the remainder of the season.

Any Club, responsible for postponing a game without the permission of the Fixture Secretary in accordance with Rule 10(C) five days or less prior to the date of the match, shall be fined £15 for the first infringement and £30 for the second. A third infringement (whether for more or less than 5 days) will trigger a review meeting with a League sub-committee to discuss the reasons for the team's postponements and to decide any further action or penalties. This could include but is not limited to expulsion of the team from the League for the remainder of the season.

Opponents must lodge a written claim for such compensation with the League within three days of the date of the match, accompanied by proof of expenditure. This also applies to the Referee if he attended the ground.

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

Any Club with more than one team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixtures, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence: - First Team, Reserve Team, A Team. Clubs in breach of this requirement shall be fined a sum not exceeding £10 or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.

Notice of postponement of any match must be given without delay by the postponing Club (or notice of a Club being unable to fulfil any match must be given 48 hours prior to the match by the Club) to the Fixtures Secretary, the Results Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the match officials. Any Club failing to comply shall be liable to a fine of £20, shall forfeit three points to its opponents and be liable to pay the legitimate expenses incurred by its opponents and by the match official(s).

It is the postponing Club's sole responsibility to communicate with all parties as soon as possible, notifying the Fixtures Secretary or any other member of the League Management committee does not relieve the postponing club of that responsibility.

Postponement of a match by any Club shall be confirmed in writing to the Fixtures Secretary within three days of the date of postponement. Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict any penalty it may deem suitable.

In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixtures Secretary within 3 days the Management Committee shall have power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date.

The Management Committee shall review all abandoned matches and in a case where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee is satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to take what action they may deem necessary. In cases where a match is abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their Club members, the Management Committee shall take such action, as they consider appropriate. Such action is subject to any disciplinary action taken by the appropriate Affiliated Association.

(G) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use three substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from three players.

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 the play as a substitute for another player. A Team must not have a squad greater than double the size of its team in an age group.

For Youth football – for teams in the under 16 age group and below, a player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

The Referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than five minutes before the start of 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 and is not included on the list of players representing a Club returned to the Registration Secretary in accordance with Rule 11(A) shall not be considered to have been a player in that game within the meaning of Rule 8 of this Competition.

(H) The half time interval shall be of ten minutes duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the Referee.

(I) (i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player

(ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player at their discretion who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 16)

(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 16). Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated conduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this Competition.

Note. (Action under Clause (ii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association and then only in cases of the player bringing the competition into disrepute.)

REPORTING RESULTS

11. (A) The appropriate Registration Secretary must receive from both Clubs within three days (excluding Sundays) 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, if a registered referee, the Referee's name, markings required by Rule 13, the Referee's qualification level and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £10 and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.

For the Under 7 and Under 8 age groups the result of the game should not be reported as no league points will be awarded for fixtures at these age groups.

(B) The Home Club shall report, by whatever means available, the result of each match to the Results Secretary within two hours of the conclusion of the game.

For the Under 7 and Under 8 age groups the result of the game should not be reported as no league points will be awarded for fixtures at these age groups.

Where the Results Secretary has to contact a home Club, by whatever means available, to ascertain the result of a game more than two hours after its conclusion, that Club shall be fined £5. If the Results Secretary has to obtain the result of a game from sources other than the responsible home Club, more than two hours after its conclusion, the defaulting Club shall be fined £10.

(C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club. The Management Committee shall have power to take such action as they deem suitable against a Club which submits an incomplete form or incorrect information,

Each team, if requested by its opponents, shall supply to its opponents a written list of its participants (either on a Team Sheet or on a recognised standard sheet of paper or card), signed by a responsible member of its Club, before the start of the match. Failure to comply with such a request should be reported in writing to the Management Committee within 3 days of the scheduled match and may result in the guilty Club being fined £10.

A team will be entitled to refuse to take part in a match until its opponents have provided it with a list of its proposed participants, signed by a responsible member of its opponents Club, before the start of the match.

A team failing to provide its opponents with a list of its participants resulting in the match being postponed shall be fined £15 forfeit the points for the match to its opponents and be responsible for all the match day expenses, as reported to the Management Committee.

The Referee shall apply to the Management Committee for payment of his full fee and expenses, which the League shall recover from the guilty party/parties.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

12. (A) Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points.

No points will be awarded for matches at the Under 7 and Under 8 age group, which shall be played on a non-competitive basis.

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points in any position within their league table(s), they are deemed to be tied. Where the league positions need to be separated to decide the awarding of trophies or other material events (i.e. promotion or relegation) this will be decided by play-off. Team rankings will be decided by a deciding match or matches played under conditions determined by the Management Committee. Goal difference will not be used to decide positions. The cost shall be shared equally between the teams concerned.

For deciding matches, where just two teams are involved, in the event of the scores in a special championship match played under conditions determined by the Management Committee being level at the end of the game, 20 minutes extra time will be played in two equal periods of 10 minutes in the case of Youth Football and 10 minutes of extra time will be played in two equal periods of 5 minutes in the case of Mini-Soccer.

(B) Where there is more than one Division at a particular age group automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first two and last two teams in each Division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 1(b).

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

Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the season may be filled on any of the following ways: (a) retention of otherwise relegated team(s)

(b) Additional promotion of the next ranked team(s) from the Division below

(c) Election

(C) In the event of a team not completing 75% of its fixtures for the season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting team shall be expunged from the Competition table.

REFEREES

13. (A) Registered Referees for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the sanctioning Association(s). An appointed referee takes precedence over any Club referee. Clubs can not turn down a referee appointed by the Referee's Secretary under any circumstances.

(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, or where the competition has been unable to appoint a Referee the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that whole game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee and be entitled to receive such fees as outlined in Rule 13(E).

Should the Clubs fail to agree upon a Referee, thus preventing the game being played, the Fixture Secretary must be informed, in writing, by both Clubs within three days of the date of the match and the reasons clearly stated therein.

Failure to comply will result in the Club(s) being dealt with under League Rule 5(H). The Fixture Secretary shall refer all cases to the Management Committee who will determine which Club(s) is/are in default. Club(s) thus determined to be in default of not mutually agreeing upon a Referee shall pay the ground expenses, the Referee's fee and travelling expenses for the rearranged fixture, the date of which shall be determined by the Fixture Secretary.

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

(D) The appointed or agreed Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final subject to either in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of a ground, the Representative of that body is the sole arbiter and whose decision must be accepted.

(E) Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to charge standard class public transport expenses or private car expenses of 25p per mile together with the following match fees: - Referee £13, Registered Referees appointed by the Management Committee as Assistant Referees £11, subject to any limits laid down by the sanctioning Association(s).

The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees and expenses before the match.

(F) In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee plus expenses. Where a match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Officials, if they attend the ground, their full fee and expenses.

The home Club must notify the appropriate Referee Appointments Secretary if its fixture is to be played on a ground different to that listed in the League Handbook. Any Club responsible for failing to so notify the Referee Appointments Secretary shall be liable to reimburse the Referee his full match fee and expenses. The Referee must submit any such claim to the Referee Appointments Secretary within three days of the scheduled date of the match.

(G) A Referee not keeping his engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his non-appearance, may be reported to the County Football Association with which he is registered.

(H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the 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 or dealt with, as the Management Committee shall determine. Where a mark of 4 or less is awarded by a Club a letter must be submitted with the form containing the mark explaining why it was necessary to award such a low mark.

(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 County Football Association.

(J)

(K) Referees shall be supplied, each Season with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

14. (A) After 31st December in the current Season a Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the General Secretary in writing by 31st March each Season or be liable to a fine not exceeding £10.

Clubs in membership, not having notified the General Secretary of their intention to withdraw, shall be assumed to be continuing in membership for the following season.

(B) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition after the Annual General Meeting for the following Season. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £10 per team and shall also be liable for its share of any call that may be made under Rule 5(B).

(C)

(D) In the event of a Member Club, which is an un-incorporated association, withdrawing and/or disbanding it shall be immediately liable to discharge all its financial and other obligations to the Competition.

In the event that any such obligation remains un-discharged after a period of twenty-one (21) days then such obligation shall be met by the then current Club Members, excluding those under the statutory school leaving age. Until a Member's pro rata obligation is discharged in full the Member shall not be allowed to participate in the Competition, which may apply to the Club's Parent County Association for a suspension order.

PROTESTS AND APPEALS

15. (A) (i) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee.

(ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match. Any Club lodging such protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this Rule and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.

(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged in duplicate with the General Secretary within three days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A Member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

(C) Any dispute occurring between Clubs in the Competition shall be referred for determination by the Management Committee whose decision shall be binding upon all parties subject to Rule 16.

(D) No protest or appeal of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the General Secretary a sum of £5. 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 enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

(E) All parties to a protest or complaint must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement when the protest or complaint is being heard and must have received seven days notice of the hearing, together with a copy of the submission. When dealing with a protest or complaint the Management Committee shall take into consideration the possession by the protesting or complaining Club of any information, which, if properly used, might have avoided the protest or complaint.

BOARD OF APPEAL

16. Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or the Competition a Club, Official or Player against whom action is taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Secretary of the Wiltshire County Football Association, including a fee in accordance with the Wiltshire County Football Association Schedule of Charges for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with FA Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an Annual or Special General Meeting unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAMS / MISCONDUCT / CLUBS / OFFICIALS / PLAYERS

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

(B) At the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Team of a Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds (2/3rds) 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.

In preparation for such a motion (to exclude a Team or Club) the Management Committee is authorised to gather whatever evidence exists and seek and consolidate the opinions of those other Teams and Clubs most closely effected by the behaviour of the Team or Club whose conduct is the subject of the exclusion vote.

(C) Any official or member of a Club proved guilty of a breach of the Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a player or players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (A) and (B) of this Rule.

(D) Any Club or Team failing to complete all of its fixtures in any season shall (unless the conditions are beyond their control, or the accredited delegates present at the Annual General Meeting decide otherwise by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast) be debarred from membership the following season.

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

18. (A) A Competition Cup or Trophy shall be vested in the Association sanctioning the Competition as Trustees. If a Competition be discontinued for any cause the Cup or Trophy shall be returned to the Donor, if the conditions attached to it so provide, or otherwise dealt with as the Association may decide. At the close of each Competition awards may be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit up to a maximum of 16 awards per Team. Any additional trophies can be requested but must be paid for by the Team concerned.

The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy: -
"We A _____ and B _____, the Chairman and Secretary of _____ FC, 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 1st March of the following season. We acknowledge that failure to do so will result in a fine of £20. A further fine will be imposed if the Trophy is not returned by 8th March. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair".
The Management Committee shall be responsible for the engraving of the trophy in accordance with the requirements of the Competition.

If funds of the Competition permit, the League may present souvenirs to all Mini-Soccer players who have participated in at least 75% of Mini-Soccer matches. All Clubs participating in the Competition may present their own players with seasonal mementoes but this will be at their own cost.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

19. Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Clubs in membership the General Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting.

The Management Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time.

At least 7 days notice shall be given of either meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than 7 days' notice shall be given of any meeting.

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £50.

Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Special General Meetings.

ALTERATION TO RULES

20. Alterations 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 19. Any alteration made during the playing season to the Rule relating to the qualification of players shall not take effect until the following season.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the General Secretary by 1st May in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 7th May and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the General Secretary by 21st May. 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 two-thirds (a majority) of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the sanctioning Football Association seven days prior to the date of the meeting.

Any alterations or additions decided upon at any meeting shall not become operative until the approval of the Association issuing sanction shall have been obtained.

RULES BINDING ON CLUBS

21. (A) Each Member Club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the foregoing Rules and agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee subject to Rule 16. Each Member Club must abide by any issued Football Association Code of Conduct.
(B) Each Member Club agrees to ensure that all managers (before taking responsibility for a team) and other officers of their club have read, understood and will comply with the rules and accept the consequences of any transgression. Ignorance of a rule of this league will not be deemed a defence or mitigation.
(C) Each Member Club agrees to speedily communicate League matters and decisions to all officials and managers.
(D) Each Member Club shall consider the desirability of becoming holders of the Chartered Standard Award.

FINANCE

22. (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 £100 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 30th April.

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