

Crofts Estate Agents Youth Football League



Affiliated to the Lincolnshire Football Association



"League of the Year" Regional Winner 2020, 2021, 2022 & 2024



ACCREDITED
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL



2025-26 Handbook

www.croftsyfl.co.uk



PLEASE REMEMBER

- 1. THESE ARE KIDS**
- 2. THIS IS A GAME**
- 3. THE COACHES ARE VOLUNTEERS**
- 4. THE REFEREES ARE HUMAN**
- 5. THIS IS NOT THE WORLD CUP**

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Crofts Estate Agents Youth Football League

Sponsored by

CROFTS ESTATE AGENTS

62 St Peters Avenue, Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire, DN35 8HP
Tel: (01472) 200 666



OFFICERS & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Committee Members	Steve Wright		

Committee members should not be contacted after 8pm

GUIDE TO MARKING FOR REFEREES

The mark awarded by a club must be based on the referee's overall performance, it is most important that the mark is awarded fairly and not based upon isolated incidents or previous games. The referee's performance should be determined by the table below which should act as a guide for the overall mark which should fall within the mark range for each standard of performance.

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

NOTES

- Using a scale of up to 100 allows greater flexibility for clubs to distinguish between different refereeing performances more accurately.
- A mark within each mark range can be given to reflect the referee's performance e.g. a mark of 79 indicates a somewhat better performance than a mark of 71.
- **A mark between 71 and 80 represents the standard of refereeing expected.**
- When a mark of 50 or less is awarded, an explanation must be provided to the League or Competition by completing the appropriate box on the marking form. It must include comments which could help improve the referee's future performances. Even where a referee has significant shortcomings there will have been some positive aspects which should be given credit; extremely low marks (below 20) should be very rare.

LEAGUE RULES**DEFINITIONS**

1. (A) In these Rules:

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

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

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

“Competition” means the Crofts Estate Agents Youth Football League.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Sanctioning Authority” means The FA, the Lincolnshire County Football Association Limited.

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

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

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

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

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

“The FA” means The Football Association Limited.

“Virtual Meetings” means meetings held electronically.

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

“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 Crofts Estate Agents Youth Football League (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.
- (B) This Competition shall consist of not more than 60 Clubs and 200 Teams approved by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be 40 miles' radius from Louth Parish Church.
- (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 particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 16 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, England Football Accredited and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (J) All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The FA from time to time.
- (K) Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing at a particular age group in the Competition in any other competition (with the exception of FA and 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 by 1st May 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 Club and shall be payable on or before 1st July in each year.
- (C) A Deposit of £50 shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club/Team (where a Club provides more than one Team in membership of the Competition) and shall be payable on or before 1st 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 1st July 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 and a minimum of one member (but no more than 8 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 1st May in each year.
All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two Clubs, not later than 1st May in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.
- (C) The Management Committee shall meet as and when required, save that no more than three calendar months shall pass between each meeting.
On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Management Committee.
- (D) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.
- (E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

- 6. (A) The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association.
- (B) Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each Season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any club which may have withdrawn during the Season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.
- (C) Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote thereat, but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).
In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman of the Management Committee shall have a second or casting vote.
- (D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within 28 days of the Competition being notified.
With the exception of Rules 6(I), 8(H) and 9, for all alleged breaches of a Rule the Management Committee shall issue a formal written charge to the Club concerned. The Club charged shall be given 7 days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a Club may:-
 - (i) Accept the charge and submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management

- Committee on the papers; or
- (ii) Accept the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
 - (iii) Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee on the papers; or
 - (iv) Deny the charge and notify that it wishes to put its case 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) 25% of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof.
- (G) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill, in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.
- (H) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision.
Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.
- (J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.
- (K) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season.
- (L) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

- 7. (A) (i) All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.
- (ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the Competition Match.
- (B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within 7 days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of their Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.
- (C) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall

have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

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

- (i) All parties must have received a minimum of 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
- (ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.

(E) The Management Committee shall also have power to compel any party to the protest to pay such expenses as the Management Committee shall direct.

(F) An intention to appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 7 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision.

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

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8. (A) The AGM shall be held not later than 1st August 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:-

- (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 hands, or count of email or virtual responses (for Virtual Meetings) unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chair so decides.

(G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Club.

(H) Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(I) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a Club (see Rule 8.G).

(J) Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

9. (A) Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call an

SGM.

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

AGREEMENT TO BE 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 Lincolnshire 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 28 days before the AGM. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (B) The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6(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/shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit.

ALTERATION TO RULES

14. Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at an SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season, except in exceptional circumstances where approved by Sanctioning Authority and The FA.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 1st May in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 1st July and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 8th July. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA (as applicable) at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

FINANCE

15. (A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
- (B) All expenditure in excess of £200 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 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 have valid public liability insurance cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.
- (B) All Clubs must have valid personal accident cover for all Players registered with them from time to time. The Players' personal accident insurance cover must be in place prior to the Club taking part in any Competition Match and shall be at least equal to the minimum recommended cover determined from time to time by the Sanctioning Authority. In instances where The FA is the Sanctioning Authority, the minimum recommended cover will be the cover required by the Affiliated Association to which a Club affiliates.

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

DISSOLUTION

17. (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at 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) (i) A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:-

1. Registered through the FA Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition.
2. Not Applicable

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

For Clubs registering Players under Rule 18 (A) 2 registration forms will be provided in a format to be determined by the Competition. For Clubs registering Players via the Player Registration System Clubs must access the Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process. The registration document must incorporate a current passport-size photograph of the Player seeking registration together with confirmation that the Player's proof of date of birth has been checked by the Club and is accurate.

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

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

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

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

(iv) Teams playing 5 v 5 may sign a maximum of 10 players, 7 v 7 may register a maximum of 12 players, 9 v 9 may register a maximum of 14 players, 11 v 11 may register a maximum of 18 players. A player can only be de-registered if they no longer play the game or have moved from the area. Should a team attempt to de-register a player who is still active in order to register another player will be dealt with by the management committee as per rule 18 (G)(ii). Confirmation from a parent or guardian for the player a team is de-registering must be provided.

(v) A team at U11 or below can only sign a maximum of 2 players registered with a Premier League or EFL Academy where consent has been given by the relevant Premier League or EFL Club.

(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. Girls in all female teams may also be permitted to play an age group down in accordance with Rule 4(F).

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.

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

Age on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season	Eligible Age Groups	Maximum Permitted Format	Minimum Pitch Sizes		Maximum Pitch Sizes		Recommended Goal Sizes in feet	Ball Size
			Yards	Metres	Yards	Metres		
6	Under 7	5v5	30x20	27.45 x 18.3	40x30	36.3 x 27.45	12x6	3
	Under 8		30x20	27.45 x 18.3	40x30	36.3 x 27.45	12x6	3
7	Under 8	5v5	30x20	27.45 x 18.3	40x30	36.3 x 27.45	12x6	3
	Under 9	7v7	50x30	45.75 x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	3
8	Under 9	7v7	50x30	45.75 x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	3
	Under 10		50x30	45.75 x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	3
9	Under 10	7v7	50x30	45.75 x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	3
	Under 11	9v9	70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
10	Under 11	9v9	70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
	Under 12		70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
11	Under 12	9v9	70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
	Under 13	11v11	90x50	82.3x45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
12	Under 13	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
	Under 14		90x50	82.3 x 45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
13	Under 14	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
	Under 15		90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
14	Under 15	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5

	Under 16		90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
15	Under 16	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
	Under 17		100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
	Under 18		100x50	91.44 x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5

(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, or where the Competition adopts Rule 18.P.
- (iii) Submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through 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 considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.
- (v) A player who has signed for a team who has yet to start the playing season or has never played for that team may have their registration cancelled at the discretion of the management committee.
- (vi) A player may only be deregistered upon confirmation that the player is no longer participating in football or has moved from the area. Proof of either will be required to the league registrar. A deregistered player will not be allowed to sign for a new team except in the transfer window.

(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.

Transfers will be limited to 2 per team. Transfers will only be allowed from 1st December until the 31st January in the playing season.

- (I) A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 28th February except by special permission of the Management Committee.

- (J) A Club shall keep a list of the Players it registers and a record of all matches in which those Players have played for the Club, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.

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

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

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

- (L) A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in Rule 22(A)) unless the Player has played 4 Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.

- (M) Not applicable

- (N) (i) Subject to Rule 18(N)(ii), any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition Match or Matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Competition Match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (ii) The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18(N)(i) only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.

- (iii) Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18(N)(i) above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion:

- (a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed;
- (b) Levy penalty points against the Club in default; and/or
- (c) Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

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

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

- (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with their head teacher (except for Sunday league competitions).

- (iii) A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August in the relevant Playing Season, shall not be permitted to play in a Competition Match during that Playing Season where any other Player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.

- (P) If a Club wishes to cancel a Player's registration within the Competition, it must make a request via The FA's electronic player registration system giving the reasons for the request. The Competition may either approve or decline the request.

If a Player's registration is cancelled he/she will not be eligible to play in the Competition for a period of 7 days

from the date of cancellation.

CLUB COLOURS

19. Every Team must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 1st 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 7 days before the Competition Match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the *away/ home* Team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick-off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

Youth Players names are not allowed to appear on the shirts, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Overhead netting is allowed for 5v5 and 7v7 mini soccer if the overhead netting height is at a minimum of 6m.

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

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

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

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

Age Group	Minimum Duration of play per	Maximum Duration of play per	Minimum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all organised development	Maximum playing time in one day in all tournaments	Competition structure

	quarter (minutes) (Mini- Soccer only)	quarter (minutes) (Mini- Soccer only)			fixtures (minutes)	and trophy events / festivals (minutes)	
Under 7 and Under 8	5	10	10	20	40	60	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 2 week periods (6 weeks)
Under 9 and Under 10	10	12.5	20	25	60	90	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 4 week periods (12 weeks)
Under 11	N/A	N/A	20	30	80	120	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 6 week periods (18 weeks)
Under 12	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 or halves. This Competition uses halves.

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 14 days prior.

Full agreement of the Crofts Estate Agents Youth Football League, which includes the match referee must also be met in order to re-arrange a fixture.

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

The home Team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

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

- (C) An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground 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 NUMBER
5v5	4
7v7	5
9v9	6
11v11	7

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

- (E) (i) In competitions where points are awarded, home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall 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 (Fixtures) Secretary within 7 days the Management Committee shall have the power to order the Competition Match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand.

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.

- (v) The Management Committee shall review any Competition Match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by The FA or Affiliated Association. In each case the Team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 18(N)(i) above. Where both Teams were under suspension the Competition Match must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.
 - (vi) Where a Competition Match has been abandoned for any reason both Clubs must, within 24 hours, give notice to the Competition Fixtures Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
 - (vii) In competitive games, should a team postpone the same fixture twice within the season the points will be automatically awarded to the non-defaulting team. Exception to this rule is where games are postponed due to weather conditions or school activities.
 - (viii) Where midweek fixtures have been arranged, teams may agree to alter the date of the fixture to an alternative date. Should teams not agree and one team is at fault the points will be awarded to the non-defaulting team.
- (F) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use substitute Players in any Competition Match.

Where a Competition does not allow return substitutes:

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

Where a Competition does allow return substitutes:

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

For Mini-Soccer – 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 5 minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match.

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

- (G) The half time interval shall be of 5 minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
- (H) The Teams taking part in Under 7s to Under 11 or Youth Football shall identify a Team captain who may 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) All teams must have a certified first aider present at all matches with a basic medical kit at all times.
- (J) All teams must swap ID cards prior to kick off in all matches. Any player without an ID card will not be allowed to play.
- (K) In all matches where spectators are present each team should provide a Match Day Respect Officer who should be responsible for the spectators of his or her team. Any irregularities should be reported to the management committee.
- (L) Teams are to adhere to The FA's respect code of conduct and Crofts Estate Agents Youth Football League match day initiatives. Failure to adhere will result in a fine as per the fine tariff.
- (M) A team may have up to 3 coaches situated on the opposite side of the field to spectators. All coaches must be in possession of a Crofts Estate Agents Youth Football League identification card. Failure to comply or show a valid ID card will result in a fine as per the fine tariff.

REPORTING RESULTS

21. (A) The (Registration) Secretary must receive within 3 days of the date played, the result of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) and also the referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

The Home Club/both Clubs shall use FA Full Time as directed by the Competition to notify the result of each Competition Match to the Fixtures Secretary by midnight of the day of the match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (B) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Club, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (C) The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect but NOT publish results or any grading tables for fixtures involving Under 7s, Under 8s, Under 9s, Under 10s, and Under 11s. Any Competition failing to abide by this Rule will be dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and any Club failing to abide by this Rule will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect and publish results for trophy events.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

22. (A) In Competitions where points are awarded, Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn Competition Match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners. Competition Matches must not be played for double points.
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) Not Applicable
- (C) Not Applicable
- (D) In the event of a Team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing Season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Team shall be expunged from the Competition table. For the purposes of this Rule 22 (D) a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee.

MATCH OFFICIALS

23. (A) Registered referees (and assistant referees where approved by The FA or County FA) for all Competition Matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning Authority.
- (B) In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any open age competition and individuals under the age of 14 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match. Referees between the ages of 14 and 16 are only eligible to officiate in competitions where the Players' age band is at least one year younger than the age of the referee, for example a 15 year old referee may only officiate in competitions where the age banding is 14 or younger.
- (C) Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) being imposed on the defaulting Club.
- (D) The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final, *subject to the determination of the Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, which must be accepted.*
- (E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff and travel expenses of 30p per mile.
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 half fee plus expenses. Where a Competition Match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Match Officials, if they attend the Ground, their full fee and expenses. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (G) A referee not keeping 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) Not Applicable
- (K) Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.
- (L) Match Officials shall have undertaken a RESPECT briefing offered by The FA/County FA or the Competition.

(M) Where match officials are not appointed (Mini-Soccer) the home team must supply a volunteer match official who has attended a training session and has an in-date DBS. They must be in possession of an ID card as proof of attendance at the training event. Each team must have a minimum of 2 card holders. There is no maximum.

SCHEDULE A

FEES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
4 (A)	CLUB ENTRY FEE	£20.00
4 (B)	TEAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£160.00
4 (C)	DEPOSIT	£50.00
7 (C), 7(E)	PROTEST/APPEAL FEES	£25.00
18 (D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE	£2.00
18 (H)	TRANSFER FEE / DE-REGISTRATION FEE	£20.00 / £10.00
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES	U7-10 - £10 flat fee U11-12 - £18 plus 30p per mile U13-14 - £20 plus 30p per mile U15-18 - £25 plus 30p per mile
23 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	£12.00 plus 30p per mile

FINES TARIFF		
RULE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FINE
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£100.00
2 (K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£100.00
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£30.00
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£100.00
4(E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM	£10.00
5 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£25.00
6 (H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£100.00
6 (I)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIMEFRAME	DOUBLE THE ORIGINAL FINE UP TO £100.00
8 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£20.00
9	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£20.00
10	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£25.00
11 (A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£100.00
11 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£100.00
13 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£25.00
16(A)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100.00
16(B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100.00
18 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£40.00
18 (B)(iii)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE PLAYING SEASON COMMENCING	£25.00
18 (F)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£25.00
18 (G)(ii)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£100.00
18(M)	FIELDING MORE THAN THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS MATCHES	Not Applicable
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 / YOUTH NAMES ON SHIRTS	£25.00
19	DELAYING KICK OFF TO DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£30.00
20(A)	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT	£30.00
20 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£20.00
20 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	Not Applicable
20 (D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£100.00
20 (E) (i) & (iii)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE	£100.00
20 (E) vi	FAILURE TO NOTIFY OF ABANDONMENT OF MATCH	£25.00
20 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	Not Applicable
20 (L)	BREACH OF RESPECT CODE OF CONDUCT AND MATCH DAY INITIATIVES	£100.00
20 (M)	FAILURE TO COMPLY OR PRODUCE A VALID ID CARD	£25.00
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 INVOLVING U7S, U8S, U9S, U10S OR U11S	£50.00
23 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£5.00
23 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£10.00
23 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£10.00
23 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£25.00

TROPHY EVENT RULES

The following rules are an extension of the Croft Estate Agents Youth Football League Rules for Trophy Event fixtures.

1. All matches shall be played and carried out in accordance with the Rules, Regulations and Bye-laws of the Football Association and the Laws of the Game
 - a) The Trophy Events shall be open for annual Competition amongst affiliated Clubs that are Members of the Competition
 - b) The Entry Fee shall be £10 per Team payable no later than seven days after the August Management Meeting. The league may weaver an entry fee for any particular season which shall be agreed by the management committee. All teams will be automatically entered into the competition.
 - c) All ground costs associated with the event will be shared between the participating teams.
 - d) Dates for each round will be set at the AGM for each playing season. Kick off times will be staggered but fixed by the management committee. Any team unable to field a team will forfeit the entry fee and will be fined as per rule for failing to complete a fixture.
2. Only players registered with the Crofts Estate Agents Youth Football League are eligible to play in any trophy event.
 - a) A player can only play for one team per season. A player who has played in a previous round and has since transferred shall be deemed as cup-tied and will be ineligible to play in any future rounds.
3. The competition will be played on a "Festival" League basis for all age groups.
 - a) There will be 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a defeat.
 - b) In the event of two or more teams having the same number of points their position shall be decided on:
 - (i) goal difference (ii) goals scored (iii) deciding match/s played under the conditions as laid down by the Management Committee. If two or more teams are equal on (i) and (ii) for the purpose of championship this will be shared.
 - c) U7/8 teams will play a maximum of 60 minutes per day. U9 teams and above will play a maximum of 90 minutes per day.
 - d) The top two teams from each group will progress into the "Champions League" events and all other participating teams will progress into the "Europa League" events.
 - e) All teams will play a round robin in both stages with the winner of the second round being declared the winner.
4. All teams will be responsible for helping to erect/take down goals, respect markings, refereeing and respect officer duties.
5. Where match officials (referees) are appointed the cost(s) will be shared between all participating teams. £10 is payable on the day to the league official to cover these costs.
6. All games within the group will be played in a round robin style up to a maximum of the FA's guideline hours.
7. All games will be played one way unless the group is made up of 3 teams where games will be played each way.
8. Winners of the "Champions League" and "Europa league" events will receive medals/trophies.

CHALLENGE CUP RULES

The following rules are an extension of the Croft Estate Agents Youth Football League Rules for Challenge Cup fixtures.

1. All matches shall be played and carried out in accordance with the Rules, Regulations and Bye-laws of the Football Association and the Laws of the Game
 - e) The Challenge Cup shall be open for annual Competition amongst affiliated Clubs that are Members of the Competition
 - f) The Entry Fee shall be £10 per Team payable no later than seven days after the August Management Meeting. All teams will be automatically entered into the competition.
 - g) In all rounds up to the final the home club shall be responsible for paying for ground costs
 - h) Dates for each round will be set at the AGM for each playing season. Kick off times will be staggered but fixed by the management committee. Any team unable to field a team will forfeit the entry fee and will be fined as per rule for failing to complete a fixture.
2. Only players registered with the Crofts Estate Agents Youth Football League are eligible to play in any Challenge Cup.
 - b) A player can only play for one team per season. A player who has played in a previous round and has since transferred shall be deemed as cup-tied and will be ineligible to play in any future rounds.
3. The competition will be played on a League basis followed by a knock-out competition.
 - f) There will be 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a defeat in all games.
 - g) In the event of two or more teams having the same number of points their position shall be decided on:
 - (i) goal difference (ii) goals scored (iii) deciding match/s played under the conditions as laid down by the Management Committee
 - h) Teams will play two equal halves as per FA guidelines.
 - i) All teams progress to knock out stages playing teams based on final league positions. For example winner of group A will play last placed in group B.
 - j) In the event of a draw at full time, extra time of 5 minutes each way for U12 teams, 10 minutes each way for U13 teams and above will be played in all rounds including the Final. If the result is still a draw after extra time, the game will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the instructions in the Football Association Handbook.
 - k) In knockout matches where two legs are played the team with the highest aggregate score over the two legs will be declared the winner. (i) Away goals do not count double. (ii) If the aggregate score is tied after the two legs then winner will be decided with kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with Laws of Association Football.
4. Where match officials (referees) are appointed the cost(s) will be shared between all participating teams.
5. Winners/Runners up of the competition events will receive medals/trophies.

FESTIVAL RULES

The following rules are an extension of the Crofts Estate Agents Youth Football League Rules for Festival fixtures.

1. All matches shall be played and carried out in accordance with the Rules, Regulations and Bye-laws of the Football Association and the Laws of the Game
 - a) The Festivals shall be open for annual Competition amongst affiliated Clubs that are Members of the Competition
 - b) Any team unable to field a team will forfeit the entry fee and will be fined as per rule for failing to complete a fixture.
2. Only players registered with the Crofts Estate Agents Youth Football League are eligible to play in any festival.
 - a) A player can only play for one team per festival.
 - b) A player can only play for the team they have registered for in the Crofts Estate Agents Youth Football League. Any team playing a player registered for another team may be withdrawn.
3. The competition will be played on a "Festival" League basis for all age groups.
 - a) There will be 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a defeat.
 - b) In the event of two or more teams having the same number of points their position shall be decided on:
 - (i) goal difference (ii) goals scored (iii) deciding match/s played under the conditions as laid down by the Management Committee. If two or more teams are equal on (i) and (ii) for the purpose of championship this will be shared.
 - c) U7/8 teams will play a maximum of 60 minutes per day. U9 teams and above will play a maximum of 90 minutes per day.
 - d) Teams will be split into two equal qualifying groups followed by a knockout competition.
 - e) In knockout matches where the score is equal at the end of full-time matches will be decided by the taking of penalties (3 per team) in accordance with the Laws of Association football.
4. All teams will be responsible for helping to erect/take down goals, respect markings, refereeing and respect officer duties.
5. Match officials (referees) where available will be appointed to matches. £10 is payable on the day to the league official to cover these costs.
6. All games within the group will be played in a round robin style up to a maximum of the FA's guideline hours.

CUP COMPETITION RULES**NAME OF COMPETITION**

1. These Competition shall be called the :
 - A. Under 12 Divisional Cup A
 - B. Under 12 Divisional Cup B
 - C. Under 12 Divisional Cup C
 - D. Under 12 League Cup
 - E. Under 13 Divisional Cup A
 - F. Under 13 Divisional Cup B
 - G. Under 13 Divisional Cup C
 - H. Under 13 League Cup
 - I. Under 14 League Cup
 - J. Under 15 League Cup

And shall be conducted on the knock-out system. All matches shall be played and carried out in accordance with the Rules, Regulations and Bye-laws of the Football Association and the Laws of the Game.

ENTRY LIMITED TO LEAGUE CLUBS

2. (a) The Cup/Trophy shall be open for annual Competition amongst affiliated Clubs that are Members of the Competition stated in Rule 1 as the Management Committee may from time to time decide
- (b) The Entry Fee shall be £20 per Team payable no later than seven days after the August Management Meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

3. (a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held at the same time and place as the Crofts Estate Agents Youth Football League Competition Annual General Meeting.
- (b) The Officers of the Competition shall be the same as those elected at the Annual General meeting of the Crofts Estate Agents Youth Football League Competition.
- (c) Any suggested alterations to these rules may be made but they must have been submitted in writing to the Competition Secretary before 1st May in each year and signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Club proposing such alterations.
- (d) Any alterations or additions decided upon shall not become operative until the approval of the Lincolnshire Football Association Ltd shall have been obtained.

CONTROL OF COMPETITIONS

4. The entire control of the Competition shall be in the hands of the Management Committee of the Crofts Estate Agents Youth Football League competition

GATE RECEIPTS AND PROCEEDS OF COMPETITION

5. In all rounds up to the Final the home Club shall take its own receipts and pay its expenses, including ground preparations. The visiting Team is responsible for its own travelling expenses
 - (a) Referees and Assistant Referees (where appointed) match fees will be shared amongst both participating teams.

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS

6. (a) The arrangement of the Final shall be left entirely in the hands of the Management Committee who shall appoint dates, Officials, grounds, take all receipts and pay any expenses not to exceed a sum considered reasonable by the Committee.

All Clubs in the Competition shall be liable to make their ground available to the Competition for the purpose of the playing of the Final ties.

Referees and Assistant Referees shall receive trophies/mementoes in lieu of a fee plus travelling expenses for the Final.

(b) The net proceeds of the Final of the Competition each year shall be devoted to the funds of the Competition.

DURATION OF GAME AND CLUB COLOURS

7. (a) All matches shall have a duration of 60 minutes for U12 competitions, 70 minutes for U13 and U14 competitions, 80 minutes for U15 and U16, 90 minutes for U17 and U18 competitions unless shorter time is mutually agreed 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. The half time interval shall be of 5 minutes duration, but it shall not exceed 10 minutes the half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

(b) If in the opinion of the Referee two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the away team shall change, except in the final, then both teams will change, unless mutually agreed otherwise.

Any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off by not having a change of colours shall be fined £10.

Goalkeepers must wear colours, which distinguish them from other Players and the Referee.

(c) In all matches Players' shirts shall be clearly numbered or a fine of £5 will be imposed.

(d) Goal nets must be provided in all games.

QUALIFICATIONS OF PLAYERS AND INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

8. (a) No Player shall play for more than one competing Club or Team in the same season. Each individual must have been a registered League Competition Player of the Club or Team for which he happens to compete at least three clear calendar days previous to the registered date fixed for playing the match, or three clear calendar days previous to the date on which the match is played whichever is the earlier. A Player having played for a Club or Team in one match of the Competition for which he was qualified, shall unless in the meantime he has been transferred to another Club, shall be entitled to play in any subsequent match in the same Competition for the same Club or Team in the same season.

To play in their respective Cup Competitions a player must be registered in accordance with FA rules. In the case of postponed or replayed matches, only those Players shall be allowed to play who were eligible for the first match. A Player who has been suspended may, if otherwise qualified; play in postponed, drawn or replayed ties after the term of his suspension has expired. Only Players who were eligible to play in any round up to and including the semi-finals shall be allowed to play in the final.

(b) Ineligible Player – any Club playing an ineligible Player shall be struck out of the Competition and fined £20 per ineligible Player.

APPOINTMENT AND CHARGES OF REFEREES AND LATE STARTS

9. (a) Referees shall be appointed as directed by the Management Committee and in any match prior to the Final each Club shall appoint an efficient Assistant Referee or shall be fined £5.

In cases of emergency the League shall appoint a neutral Referee whom it considers will be suitable to the Clubs concerned. In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. The Referee thus appointed shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee.

(b) Officials appointed under this rule shall be entitled to charge fee's as per the League's Competition rules.

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

A Referee is entitled to full fee and travelling expenses as above if the match to which they were appointed and attended is not played, but where a match is not played owing to one Club being in default, then that Club shall pay the Official(s) if they attend at the ground, full fee and allowed expenses.

(c) Referees/Assistant Referees in this Competition shall wear black uniforms.

(d) Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time if possible, and must report all late starts to the Competition and should advise the captains of his intentions.

(e) The Management Committee shall fix the time of kick-off for each match. Any Club turning out later than the specified time, failing satisfactory explanation being given shall be fined according to the severity of the offence. In the event of any late start preventing the completion of any match, the defaulting Club shall be liable to forfeit the match.

Referees must report in writing exact time of kick-off in cases of late starts and also any cases of matches not started or completed, stating the reason for this within three clear days to the Competition Secretary.

OBJECTIONS AND PROTESTS

10. Any objections relative to the field of play or appurtenances of the game must be lodged in writing with the Referee before the commencement of a match. All protests or objections must be made in duplicate and confirmed in writing to the Secretary of the Competition within three clear days after the match, accompanied by a protest fee of £25 which shall be forfeited if the protest or objection fails.

ARRANGEMENTS AND REGISTRATION OF ROUNDS

11. (a) Dates shall be appointed by the Management Committee for each round at the Annual General Meeting, and immediately furnished to the Secretary of the Lincolnshire Football Association Ltd, and all matches must be decided on or before the dates so chosen, unless the special permission of the Management Committee be obtained for an extension of time. Clubs first drawn in the ballot shall have choice of ground.

(b) In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control it shall, subject to Rule 15(b) be replayed in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee, but failing such agreement the Management Committee shall have power to order the match to be played on or before a named date.

NOTICE OF RESULTS

12. (A) The registration Secretary must receive within 3 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 13, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £20 or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.

(B) Both Club shall electronically notify the result of each match to the fixture secretary before midnight on the date of the match. Clubs failing to comply shall be fined £20 for each offence.

13. Any Club reaching the semi-final or final stage of the Competition shall not be allowed to withdraw or postpone such match, but must play its best available Team. In the event of any Club failing to keep its engagement without making application for postponement or giving a satisfactory explanation to the Management Committee, the match shall go against it by default, and a fine of £50 shall be imposed.

In the event of a drawn game no Club shall be allowed to withdraw except by permission of the Management Committee. Any Club not complying with this rule shall be considered to be guilty of gross misconduct, and in addition to being dealt with by the Management Committee shall be compelled to pay the expenses of their opponents.

Note Any Club failing for any reason to play on the date fixed by the Competition for either the Semi-Final or the Final must be struck out of the Competition.

PROCEDURE FOR DRAWN GAMES

14. In the event of a draw at full time, extra time of 5 minutes each way for U12 teams, 10 minutes each way for U13 teams and above will be played in all rounds including the Final. If the result is still a draw after extra time the game will be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the instructions in the Football Association Handbook.

POWERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

15. (a) The Management Committee shall have power for breach of Rules or other misconduct to inflict fines upon Clubs, to suspend or expel any Player or Club from taking part in the Competition, and to order matches to be replayed on such terms as they decide.

The Management Committee shall be at full liberty from time to time to appoint and to delegate any of their powers to a Sub – Committee and shall have power to appoint Commissions to inquire into any complaints, claims, appeals protest, or any other matters within the jurisdiction of the Competition and the expenses of such Commission shall be borne by the party to whom the Commission shall deem to have been at fault. Subject to confirmation by the Management Committee, the decisions of the Sub – Committee, or Commission shall be considered final, subject to Rule 20.

(b) The Management Committee shall review all abandoned matches and in cases where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to any of the Clubs, shall be empowered to order the score to stand at the time of the abandonment to be recorded as the result. In all cases where the Management Committee is satisfied that a game has been abandoned owing to the conduct of one Club or its Club Member or Members, they shall be empowered to award the tie to its opponent and/or take what other action they deem necessary. In cases where a game is abandoned owing to the conduct of both Clubs 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 Lincolnshire Football Association Ltd or the appropriate County Football Association.

TROPHY: LEGAL OWNERS CONDITION OF TAKING OVER AGREEMENT TO BE ASSIGNED.

16. (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 provides or otherwise dealt with as the Association may decide.

(b) 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 the _____ FC members of and representing the club having been declared the winner 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 Grimsby and District Junior Football League on or before the February 28th each year or when called by the Management Committee or a fine of £50 shall be imposed.. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged while under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or cost of its thorough repair.
A Cup or Trophy must be returned in the same condition it was presented to the Club or a fine of £50 shall be imposed.

(c) At the close of each Competition awards shall be made to the winners/runners up if the funds of the Competition permit. Fourteen for the players and substitutes, and one for the Secretary. The presentation of any other mementoes or souvenirs is not allowed unless permission has been previously obtained from the Competition.

PRECEDENCE OF OTHER COMPETITIONS

17. The Lincolnshire Football Association Ltd Competitions shall take precedence over any fixtures arranged under the rules of this Competition.

BOARD OF APPEAL

18. Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee of 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 Lincolnshire Football Association Ltd including a fee as per fees set in the Lincolnshire Football Association handbook 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 cost of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on

all parties concerned.

CLUBS ENTERING OUTSIDE COMPETITIONS

19. A Club having been granted permission by the Lincolnshire Football Association Ltd to enter any Competition outside of the County is not allowed to postpone or cancel any match within the jurisdiction of the Lincolnshire Football Association Ltd without their permission.

RULES BINDING ON CLUBS

20. Each 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 18.

SUBSTITUTES

21. A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use 5 Substitute Players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from 5 Players.

The Referee shall be informed of the names of the Substitutes before the start of the game.

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.

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.

FINES

22. All fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting of the written notification. Failure to pay the fine including the additional sum within 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such times as the outstanding payments are settled.

3V3 EVENT RULES

The following rules are an extension of the Crofts Estate Agents Youth Football League Rules for 3v3 fixtures.

1. All matches shall be played and carried out in accordance with the Rules, Regulations and Bye-laws of the Football Association and the Laws of the Game.
 - a. The events shall be open for affiliated Clubs that are Members of the Competition
 - b. Any team unable to field a team will forfeit the entry fee and will be fined as per rule for failing to complete a fixture.
2. Only players registered with the Crofts Estate Agents Youth Football League are eligible to play in any 3v3 competition.
 - a. A player can only play for one team per day.
 - b. A player can only play for the club they have registered for in the Crofts Estate Agents Youth Football League. Any team playing a player registered for another team may be withdrawn.
3. The competition will be played on a "Developmental" League basis for all age groups up to U11 and may be played either "Developmental" or "Competitive" for U12 and above. For Competitive events:
 - a. There will be 2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a defeat.
 - b. In the event of two or more teams having the same number of points the championship will be shared between those teams.
4. A maximum of 4 players per team (3 players plus 1 substitute).
 - a. Teams may enter more than one team and will be grouped based on ability.
 - b. Games will be 8 minutes one way and played in groups of up to 6 teams. Groups of less than 6 teams may play each other more than once.
5. First named team will be responsible for officiating the match.
6. Games will start and finish on a central klaxon.
7. All teams will be responsible for helping to erect/take down goals/pitches, respect markings, refereeing and respect officer duties.
8. In competitive events winners and runners up will receive medals/trophies.

3V3 PLAYING RULESKick off

- The game starts with the ball on the half way line and all players with a hand on their own goal.
- All games will start and stop on the central klaxon.

Goals

- Goals cannot be scored from your own half. If this happens then the game continues as a goal kick.
- From a goal kick or restart a player cannot just run and shoot (whilst the opposition is retreating) a pass or beating a player must happen first.

Retreat rule

- If a goal is scored, all players on the scoring team must retreat and touch their own goal before being active in play. If they don't, then a penalty is given.
- If the ball goes out of play for a goal kick the opposing team must touch their own goal before being active in play. If they don't, then a penalty is given.
- The opposing team does not have to wait for you to retreat to bring the ball into active play. If a player does not retreat and attempts to go near the ball then a penalty is given.
- No player can stand in front of the goal for the duration of the game nor act as a goalkeeper. If in the opinion of the referee a player is acting as a goalkeeper then a penalty is given.

Out of play

- If the ball goes out of play at the sides it is a kick in and the opposing player must stand 2 yards away
- If kicked out for a goal kick, then the retreat rule applies.
- If the ball goes out for a corner then the opposing player must stand 2m away
- Any foul/handball anywhere on the pitch is a penalty.
- If the game is stopped for any reason (e.g. Injury) then the game shall be restarted with the ball on the half way line and all players with a hand on their own goal.

Penalties

- Any foul will be a penalty from the halfway line.
- Penalties are taken from the halfway line with all players behind the ball (No goalkeeper).
- Players must stand 2m away from the ball.
- Players are active as soon as the ball is kicked.

FUTSAL COMPETITION RULES

The following rules are an extension of the Crofts Estate Agents Youth Football League Rules for futsal fixtures.

1. All matches shall be played and carried out in accordance with the Rules, Regulations and Bye-laws of the Football Association and the Laws of the Game for Futsal.
 - a. The events shall be open for affiliated Clubs that are Members of the Competition
 - b. Any team withdrawing from the competition after having accepted the invitation for entry will forfeit its entry fee, unless otherwise directed by the Management Committee.
2. Only players registered with the Crofts Estate Agents Youth Football League are eligible to play in any Futsal competition.
3. A player can only play for the team they have registered for in the Crofts Estate Agents Youth Football League.
4. All associated costs of venue and referees will be shared equally between participating teams.
5. The competition will be played as either “Developmental” or “Competitive” depending on age group. For Competitive events:
 - a. There will be 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a defeat.
 - b. In the event of two or more teams having the same number of points the championship will be shared between those teams.
6. A maximum of 8 players per team allowed in a match day squad.
 - a. Teams may enter more than one team but players will only be able to play for one team throughout the competition and will be grouped based on ability.
7. All games will consist of a minimum of two 18-minute halves of continuous running time, with a maximum of 3-minute interval at half time (at the referee’s discretion).
8. In competitive events winners and runners up will receive medals/trophies.

The Crofts Estate Agents YFL Respect CODE OF CONDUCT



Designated Spectator Areas

Designated Spectators' Areas must be marked by an additional line, the use of cones, a roped-off area or use of a temporary spectators' barrier.

The areas literally draw the line which spectators should not cross. Research has shown it to have a beneficial impact on the behaviour of spectators and their impact on players and match officials.

The ideal arrangement is to mark out a Designated Spectators' Area on the opposite side of the pitch to club officials (manager/coaches etc) for spectators to stand behind. This allows the manager/coaches of both teams to stand on the other side of the pitch, meaning players can better distinguish the advice from their team officials.

The Designated Spectators' Area should be a minimum of two metres from the touchline (there is no maximum) and should run the full length of the pitch. This means no-one should be watching from behind the goals. It is recognised however that the alignment of some public pitches does not allow for this set up in which case other appropriate arrangements should be made.

You may prefer an alternative form of marking a Designated Spectators' Area, but you must ensure this is safe for both the spectators and the players.

Should a club fail to make acceptable arrangements for a Designated Spectators' Area, the League may consider issuing a sanction against them.

Match Day Respect

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

ID Cards should be passed to the opposition team prior to the start of the game along with all players in the centre circle or half way line and both teams should check ID cards against players. Remember you have a duty to ensure players are registered within the league.

A reminder that no smoking (including e-cigarettes and vaporisers) or drinking of alcohol is allowed at the side of pitches.

All teams should carry a first aid kit and ID cards at all times and may be asked to produce these by a league official.

All teams are required to attend a mandatory RESPECT meeting annually at the start of each season. Failure to do so will result in a fine being imposed as per the fines tariff.

Respect Match Day Officer

For each game, both teams should identify a match day RESPECT officer who should be clearly identifiable by wearing the provided vest. Their role is to ensure that the spectators and coaches do not enter the field of play without permission and that spectators stand behind the designated barriers and not behind the goals. This person acts on behalf of the club and league and should deal with any breaches of the RESPECT criteria, especially with abusive behaviour. Any incidents should be dealt with by the club officials at the ground and any incidents unable to be resolved must be reported to the league.

Respect Club of the Year

Each year the League will reward clubs who have shown exemplary behaviour towards the Respect campaign. This will be awarded on merit using some of following criteria:

- Number of Fines imposed on the club
- Breaking League Rules
- Showing example behaviour during matches
- Feedback from Club Officials

Lincolnshire FA - Matchday Environment Requirements

For all matches within a youth competition, the following must be in place:

- A Respect Barrier, a minimum of 3-5m back from the touchline and along the entire length of the touchline, separating the spectators from the Field of Play.
- Spectators are to stand behind the respect barrier only and must not be stood behind either goal during the fixture.
- The home club are to create either a marked or coned technical area for both sets of coaches, which is to be at least 2m back from the touchline and a maximum of 10m wide by 10m in length.
- A maximum of 3 coaches who are listed on the Club Portal, are permitted to be on one side of the field of play with players/substitutes. These coaches are required to have an in-date FA DBS, Safeguarding Children Qualification and must remain in their technical area throughout the fixture unless invited onto the field of play by the referee to provide treatment.
- Any additional coaches are to be on the opposite side of the field of play with the spectators behind the respect barrier throughout the fixture.
- A Respect Marshall must be identified for each team who can be identified by an appropriate bib and/or lanyard.
- Failure to have the above requirements in place will result in a fine in line with the fines tariff.

Abandoned Matches Directive

Participants entering the field of play:

- Participants are only permitted to enter the Field of Play where invited to do so by the referee to treat an injured player. Coaches are not permitted to enter the field of play during or after the fixture to confront the referee or challenge their decisions. Should a coach enter the field of play and confront the referee and/or challenge their decisions, the referee shall abandon the fixture with immediate effect.

Spectators entering the field of play:

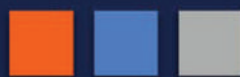
- Spectators are not permitted to enter the field of play at any point during or after the fixture. Should a spectator enter the field of play to confront the referee or any other participant within the game, the referee shall abandon the fixture with immediate effect.

Following ruling to be triggered by leagues when the game is abandoned in the above-mentioned circumstances:

- Following a match being abandoned owing to a participant and/or spectator entering the field of play in the manner prescribed above, the referee will report the matter to the County FA to investigate.
- In all cases where the management committee are satisfied that a competition match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or is club member(s) following a proven misconduct charge, they shall be empowered to award the points for the competition match to the opponent.

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