

EJA

**Standard Code of Rules
2015 - 16**

STANDARD CODE OF RULES: SEASON 2015/2016

NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

Eastern Junior Alliance

1. (A) This Competition shall be designated the Eastern Junior Alliance League/Cup and known as the Eastern Junior Alliance (sponsorship title) and shall consist of not more than 90 Clubs approved by the sanctioning authority.

The Competition will provide football in accordance with the agreed youth formats published under FA Rule C4 (A). This Competition will reproduce the relevant FA Rule in its handbook and on its website to ensure clarity and compliance with Rule 8(B).

(B) All such Member Clubs must be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form "D" to the Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be London and the South East and Eastern Counties.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Football Association and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding ten in number (in all age groups).

(C) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

(i) This Competition and each Member Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination

(ii) This Competition and each Member Club does not and must not [by its rules or regulations or] in any manner whatsoever unlawfully discriminate against any person within the meaning and scope of the Equality Act 2010 or any law, enactment, order or regulation relating to discrimination (whether by age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise).

(iii) (This Competition and each Member Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognizing that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise).

(iv) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate sanctioning Association for investigation.

(D) This Competition wishes to become a designated Charter Standard League. Existing Member Clubs have two years (until the end of the 2014-15 season) to

achieve the Charter Standard club award or face expulsion from the League. New Member Clubs have one year to achieve the Charter Standard club award. The League has the right to refuse membership to a Club if it fails to demonstrate commitment to achieving the award.

(E) This Competition and its Clubs shall support the FA's Respect programme. As such it recognises that everyone in football has a collective responsibility to create a fair, safe and enjoyable environment in which the game can take place. A Respect League values the courtesy and fairness by opposing players, club officials and spectators. The League and its Clubs will seek to play fixtures in a fair, competitive but not antagonistic environment.

(F) Member Clubs shall not enter any of their teams playing in the Competition in any other Competitions (with the exception of FA and County FA Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee of the Competition.

(G) The competition will provide 11-a-side football for players who have attained the age of 12 as at midnight 31st August in a playing season in accordance with Rule 8(B).

Other formats of youth football as authorised from time to time by the FA are also permitted.

(i) It shall be a condition of membership of this competition that all Member Clubs shall compete in the Easter Junior Alliance 'Challenge Cup' and Clubs on accepting membership shall be deemed to have accepted these conditions

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

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

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

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

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

Where an entrance fee is required but not accompanying the Club's application, such application will not be considered.

(B) The Annual Subscription shall be £50 per Club/Team playing 11-a-side football, and £170 per Team payable on or before the 31st July in each year. Each Club shall receive 3 copies of the competition official handbook if one age group entered plus an additional 2 copies for every other age group entered. Should the total required payment not be received by this date, the Club shall be fined £25.00 (fine reference 2:B).

(C) Each Club shall, within 14 days/on the day of election, pay a Deposit of £250 which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee. Should payment not be received by this date, the Club shall be fined £25.00 (fine reference 2:C).

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

(E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 7th July of its County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, failing which they shall be fined £50 (fine reference 2:E). Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition.

OFFICERS

3. The Officers of the Competition shall be determined by the Annual General Meeting and elected thereat (N.B. Auditors/Verifiers are not Officers).

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

4. (A) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers and 2 delegates from each constituted member Clubs who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The Association from time to time.

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

(C) The Management Committee shall meet at least quarterly. Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Members of the Management Committee, the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the 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 nominated Officers.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

5. (A) The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and delegates 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 Football Association or affiliated Association.

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

(C) Each Member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee Meetings and have one vote thereat, but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such Member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest (this shall apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).

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

(D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules. Except where these Rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty any Club, Club Official (limited to Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer) or player alleged to be in breach of a competition Rule.

With the exception of Rules 5(i), 6(h), 10(a), 11 and 19 for any breaches of Rule a formal written charge must be issued. The respondent shall be given seven days from the date of notice to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to:-

- (i) Accept or deny the charge
- (ii) Submit in writing a case of mitigation, or
- (iii) Put their case before the Management Committee.

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

With the exception of Clubs playing at Step 7 of the Football Pyramid and the FA Women's Premier League, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Competition rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Competition must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

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

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

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

(G) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.

(H) A Club having failed to comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, or failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition shall be liable to be fined or otherwise penalized at the discretion of the Management Committee (fine reference 5:H).

(I) All fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting of the written notification (fine reference 5:I).

Any Club failing to do so will be fined a maximum of £50. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional sum within 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding payments are settled.

(J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or match may have any 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 Annual General or Special

General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition season.

(L) No participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

(M) Rule does not apply to the EJA.

(N) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

(O) A Club failing to be represented or failing to sign the official attendance document at a League Council or special Meeting shall be fined £25.00. Where such meetings are regionalised, a Club must be represented at a minimum of one such meeting to comply with this Rule or incur a fine of £25.00 (fine reference 5:O). In addition, any Club failing to be represented at three consecutive meetings shall be dealt with as the Management Committee may determine. Not less than seven days notice shall be given for any such meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 15th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least 75% of Members are present and entitled to vote:-

- (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) To consider any business arising there from.
- (iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
- (iv) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee).
- (v) Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
- (vi) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
- (vii) Appointment of Auditors.
- (viii) Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
- (ix) Fix the date for the commencement of the season and kick off times applicable to the Competitions.
- (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.

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

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

(D) Each Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Fourteen days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.

(E) Clubs who have withdrawn their Membership of the Competition during the season being concluded or who are not continuing Membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 17.

(F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot is demanded by at least two-thirds of the delegates qualified to vote, or the Chairman so decides.

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

(H) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £50 (fine reference 6:H). Failing to sign the attendance register will also be considered as non-attendance by the Club representative.

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

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

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

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

Any alteration of the Chairman and /or Secretary on the above Agreement must be notified to the _____ County Football Association(s) to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary of the Competition.

(Note 1: The spaces above are intended for the inclusion of the signatures and addresses of officers and members).

(Note 2: It is not acceptable for either the Chairman and/or the Secretary of the Youth Club to sign this agreement unless he/she also holds the corresponding position within the Senior Club).

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

8. (A) (i) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, 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 signing a registration form for that Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 12 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

(ii) No player registered with a FA Premier League or Football League Academy under the Elite Player Performance Plan contained within Youth Development Rules will be permitted to play in this competition. Details of the Youth Development Rules are published on the FA web site. A Player registered with a Centre of Excellence may only play in this Competition subject to the Regulations of the Programme for Excellence.

(iii) While serving in any branch of Her Majesty's Regular Forces, a player must first obtain the consent of his Association Secretary before signing a registration form to play for a Club.

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

(i) Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by his /her parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the Registrations Secretary at least seven days prior to playing and whose completed registration counterfoil has been received by the Club prior to playing. The registration document must incorporate any known serious medical conditions of the player and emergency contact details of the player's parents or guardians. These details must be available at matches and training events the player attends within the management of the Club or Competition.

(ii) The registration document must incorporate a current passport-sized photograph of the player seeking registration together with proof of the player's date of birth.

(iii) If a player's age is required for registration purposes, the Competition must accept an original birth certificate or a photocopy. In cases where the birth certificate is not available, the Competition is required to accept a photocopy

of the player's passport or other official document issued by a Government Agency attesting to the player's date of birth.

The qualification dates for the competition shall be as follows:

YOUTH FOOTBALL

Under 11 – the player must have attained the age of 10 but must be under the age of 11 by midnight 31st August in the playing season if the format of football is 11v11. If the format provided is 9v9, the player must have attained the age of 9 but must be under 11 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In accordance with the foregoing qualifications a player under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season must not play in a match where any other player is older or younger by 2 years or more.

(The above qualification dates are subject to the provisions contained in FA Rule C.4(a) (v), (vi) and (vii).

(C) Each Club shall have submitted to the Registration Secretary fourteen days prior to the commencement of the playing season of the League, their players Registration Forms to ensure that they have at least eleven (11) fully endorsed registrations for each age group entered into the League. With effect from the first Sunday in October, each Club shall have registered a minimum of sixteen (16) players at each age group entered into the League. Failure to comply with any part of this Rule will, at the discretion of the Management Committee, result in a fine of not less than £50.00 for each age group of that Club being in default (fine reference 8:C). In addition, the Registration details endorsed by the Registration Secretary must be in

the possession of the Club Secretary before such players are eligible to play in any match under the jurisdiction of the League. The provisions within Rule 8 Q apply.

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

(E) A fee of £5.50 shall be paid for each player registered and shall accompany such Registration Forms together with a stamped addressed envelope with sufficient postage paid for the return of the Club copy of the Registration Forms. The player fee includes individual player insurance and is a mandatory requirement of this League. Each team will deposit the sum of £88.00 14 days prior to the commencement of the season to cover the minimum number of required players (16). Any further registration cards will be invoiced on the 1st April that season. Failure to comply with this rule will incur a £25.00 fine (fine reference 8:E).

Registration forms shall be obtained from the Registrations Secretary.

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

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

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

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

(ii) Having signed for one Club in the Competition, sign for another Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.

(iii) Submit a signed registration form for registration that the player had willfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

(H) (i) The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any player subject to the provisions of clauses (ii) and (iii) below.

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

(iii) The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 16) subject to the right of appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association.

Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this Competition. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the player is registered or intending to be registered with.

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

(Note: Action under Clause (iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any case be subject to an Appeal to the Football Association. 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 a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence for any team playing in this Competition.)

(I) Subject to FA Rule C2 (a), dealing with players without a written contract when a player desires a transfer, the Club the player wishes to transfer to shall submit a transfer form to the Registrations Secretary accompanied by a fee of £10.00. Such transfer shall be referred by the Registrations Secretary to the Club for which the player is registered. Should this Club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Registrations Secretary and to the player concerned within seven days of receipt of the transfer form. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within seven days, the Registrations 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.

(J) A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 1st April except by special permission of the Management Committee.

(K) A Club shall keep a list of the players it registers and a record of the games in which they have played, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.

In the event a Club has more than one team in an age group, each team must be clearly identifiable County Section (no Club may have 2 teams play at the same age group in the same section). In such cases, players will be registered for one team only. Players so registered will be allowed to play for his Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 8 (B).

(L) 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 any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one Season only.

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

(N) Players' identity cards, including substitutes, must be available at all matches and produced for inspection to the opposing Team Manager prior to the commencement of the match. The Match referee must be present when the card inspection is made or alternatively informed by both teams that each team has completed the inspection. A Club failing to exchange these cards will be deemed to be at fault and should a problem then occur, will be liable for a fine of £50.00 for failing exchange the said cards (fine reference 8:N). Members of the Management Committee may also at their discretion, request the sight of players' identity cards at a match.

(O) (i) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players may/shall have the points gained in the match deducted from its total and may be fined and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(ii) In addition the team may have 3 points deducted from its total at the discretion of the Management Committee and may be dealt with in any further manner which is thought to be fit.

(iii) The Management Committee may, at its discretion, award the points available in the match in question to the opponents, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

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

(P) (i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations' activities. This is not applicable for under 17/18 football.

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

(iii) Children under 15 shall not play in a team involving players who are more than 2 years older.

(Q) A team shall not include more than 2 (two) players who have taken part in any other competition matches during the current season unless a period of 7 (seven) days has elapsed since they played.

(i) A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August in a playing season, shall not be permitted to play in a match during that playing season where any other player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.

CLUB COLOURS. CLUB NAME

9. (A) Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 7th July who shall decide as to their suitability.

The shirts of all outfield players and substitutes must be numbered.

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

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

The shirts of all outfield players and substitutes must be numbered.

Any team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify the colours in which they will play to its opponents at least 5 days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the away team shall make the change. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off by not having a change shall be fined £25.00 (fine reference 9:A:1).

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

The team Captain must wear a distinguishing arm-band. Clubs failing to comply shall at the discretion of the management Committee be liable to a fine not exceeding £10 (fine reference 9:A:2).

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

PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY

TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES

10. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall determine the date for the commencement of the season in accordance with Football Association Rules. Original fixtures arranged by the (Fixtures) Secretary, or at a meeting specially convened for that purpose, to be held no later than 15th June, must not be arranged for a date later than seven days preceding the concluding date.

If mutually arranged at a meeting a list of fixtures must be forwarded to the Fixtures Secretary within seven days of the meeting. Fixtures are deemed to be accepted unless objections are received by the (Fixtures) Secretary within fourteen days of their issue.

Any Club failing to be represented at a fixture meeting or otherwise infringing this Rule shall be liable for a fine of £50.00 and the Management Committee or the (Fixtures) Secretary shall arrange that Club's fixtures (fine reference 10:A).

(B) All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.

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

Every Club shall take its own gate receipts for all League matches.

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

Football Turf Pitches (3G Artificial Pitches) are allowed in this Competition providing they meet the required performance standards and are listed on the FA's Register of Football Turf Pitches. For clubs playing at Step 7 and below from season 2014/15, all Football Turf Pitches used must be on the FA's register and must be tested (by an 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 10(D). Clubs may not change their venues for any of their competing teams without prior permission of

the Management Committee. Any Club failing to comply with this requirement shall be dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

Should a Club change the venue and pitch that any of their teams have informed the Management Committee as being their home venue, such Club will have their league and cup fixtures for that team suspended until an approved alternative venue is identified and agreed as being acceptable by the Management Committee.

The Club in default shall be fined the sum of £50.00 (fine reference 10:B:1), applied seven days after the use of a non-approved venue is identified and for the fine to be repeated every seven days thereafter until an approved alternative venue is sanctioned by the Competition.

The Minimum required standards required by this League are:

PITCHES

All under 18 matches must be played on the Clubs main Pitch (fine reference 10:B:2). In the event of the main pitch being unplayable any alternative venue must meet the required minimum standard. Any under 18 team in membership of the League which is unable to play at the Clubs main ground may be placed in a separate section and their nominated alternative ground must meet the minimum standard.

All other age groups may play their matches on public and park pitches, subject to:

The pitch must be fully surrounded by a boundary rope behind which all spectators must stand. This rope must be substantial and be no less than four feet from the ground, at its lowest point and a minimum of nine feet from the edge of the playing area (fine reference 10:B:3).

Both participating teams are to arrive at the confirmed venue no later than 1 (one) hour before the notified kick-off time (fine reference 10:B:4).

Separate dressing rooms and hot showers shall also be provided for each team along with separate facilities for match official(s) (fine reference 10:B:5). Each room shall be suitably closed off to protect the privacy of the occupants from others. Keys shall be provided for the occupants to use during the length of their stay at the facility. If keys are not available, then clear signage must be displayed within each such room to the effect that users are requested not to leave any valuables within the room as the Home club is unable to accept responsibility for items removed without permission. Each room shall be clean, tidy and uncluttered and the users shall be expected to leave the accommodation in a similar condition when vacating such (fine reference 10:B:6).

Failure on the part of a Club to comply with any of the above two sections will incur a minimum fine of £25.00 (fine references 10:B:2/3/4/5/6). Repeated failure to comply shall be dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

At Under 18 team level, suitable cover shall be provided for substitutes, coaches and physios (fine reference 10:B:2).

Clubs failing to comply with these requirements shall be further dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

HOSPITALITY

A Home Club official should meet and greet the opposing team and match officials upon arrival. This nominated official should be present at the match venue a minimum of 1 (one) hour before the scheduled kick-off time of the match. Failure to comply with this rule will incur a fine of £10.00 (fine reference 10:B:7).

The mandatory minimum requirements shall consist of a hot drink to be made available prior to the match, at half time and at the conclusion of the match, both for the match official(s) and opponents.

Hot or Cold food is to be provided at the end of the game:-match officials in their changing room: players and managers in the Club House.

Clubs failing to comply with these requirements shall be liable to a minimum fine of £20.00, with a maximum of £50.00 (fine reference 10:B:8).

Visiting teams should avail themselves of the hospitality shown by the home team. If such a team has a valid reason for not accepting such hospitality, this should be notified to the home team in writing at 24 hours before the agreed match kick-off time. Should any team not correctly decline this hospitality in this manner and then not accept such, they will be required to reimburse the home Club (through the League) for the cost of such hospitality and also to reimburse the League with their administrative costs for arranging this reimbursement (fine reference 10:B:9).

DRESS CODE

A mandatory minimum dress code shall be observed whereby all players and Club Officials must wear either shirt, tie and trousers (jeans are not acceptable) or else all squad members must wear club tracksuits. Failure to comply with this rule will incur a fine of £10.00 (fine reference 10:B:10).

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

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

No player participating in an Under 17 team division or lower age group shall be permitted to play more than one game or, in the event the competition allows the

playing of a double-header, i.e. two separate matches, 100 minutes per day in this Competition.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed at the AGM. Each team is required thereafter and by not later than 31st August to have updated the League's website with their individual team's kick-off time for home matches. Failure to complete this by the stipulated date will result in a fine of £20.00 being imposed (fine reference 10:B:11).

No teams shall be allowed to change its stipulated kick-off time for home matches without the prior permission of the Management Committee and by then also having updated the website to reflect this at least 5 (five) days before the change becomes effective. Any Club not complying with this shall be fined £10.00 (fine reference 10:B:12).

Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time shall be fined a sum not exceeding £25.00 or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition (fine reference 10:B:13).

The home team must provide at least two footballs of the type authorised by the Competition to the match referee in his changing room fifteen minutes before play commences and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. The size of football to be used: size 4 for those playing under 13 and 14 age groups; size 5 for all other age groups. Goal nets must be used. Failure to comply with this rule will incur a fine of £10.00 (fine reference 10:B:14).

Each team must purchase four match balls from the league of the type that have been approved by the Clubs and Management Committee.

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

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

(D) The Secretary of the home Club must give notice in writing of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the match officials and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least five clear days prior to the playing of the match. The away Club shall seek and acknowledge receipt of such particulars. Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine of £25.00 (fine reference 10:D).

(E) In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than ten players they shall be fined £10.00 for each missing player (fine reference 10:E). A minimum of eight players will constitute a team for a Competition match.

(F) (i) Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement, the Management Committee shall have power to inflict a minimum fine of £50.00, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals (fine reference 10:F:1). Double Header matches, if arranged and then not played, will only incur a single fine of £50.00 and with only 3 points being awarded to the opponents. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

(ii) From time to time it may be necessary for the Fixtures Secretary to arrange mid-week fixtures for age groups U16 and above. This is to ensure that when Clubs fall behind with their fixtures, it does not affect the other teams in their section. Wednesday evening will be the date set aside for playing these fixtures. Clubs do have the right to rearrange this date provided the rearranged date is within seven days of the original scheduled date. Failure to comply with this Rule will incur a fine of £50.00 and the loss of the fixture to the defaulting team (3 points for a league match and a walk-over for a cup match) (fine reference 10:F:1).

(iii) Any Club with more than one team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence: - oldest age team first. Clubs in breach of this requirement shall be fined a sum not exceeding £50.00 or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee (fine reference 10:F:1).

Each Club must ensure that they have at any one time enough pitches to accommodate the fixtures generated by the Fixture Secretary. It is the responsibility of the home Club to make sure that all fixtures generated have a home pitch available.

(iv) Any club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Fixtures Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, the Results Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and to the match official(s). Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict a fine, in accordance with the rule indicated above (fine reference 10:F:2).

(v) In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixtures Secretary within 14 days, the

Management Committee shall have power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date. Providing gate money is taken and retained the visiting Club shall receive their actual standard class rail or bus fares or the equivalent of £10.00 for each person, or car allowance at 30p per mile for transporting 4 persons, or hire charge of a coach (receipt to be submitted). The residue (if any) to be equally divided between the two Clubs after deducting the cost of advertising, printing, posting, police and match officials charges. The home Club shall take the whole of the proceeds of the second match.

(vi) The Management Committee shall review all 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 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 match to the opponent. In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams and/or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match as void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

MATCH DAY POSTPONEMENTS

In respect of any match postponed upon the day of the match or within the period of five days prior to the scheduled day of the match, notification and the reason for such postponement must be telephoned in accordance with all sections of Rule 11(B). Failure to comply with any part of this requirement will result in a fine of £10.00 (fine reference 10:F:2). In addition, a written explanation for any matches postponed prior to match date shall be forwarded to be received by the Management Committee within three days of the scheduled match date. Failure to comply will result in a fine of £25.00 (fine reference 10:F:3).

ADVANCE POSTPONEMENTS

Clubs will be automatically allowed two Sundays free from football: these dates will be set to be (1) the weekend date between Christmas and the New Year and (2) Easter Sunday. Should Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day fall at a weekend, then a third weekend date will also be free of football. In such cases, the weekends of (1) Christmas, (2) New Year and (3) Easter will be free of football

The Management Committee shall review any match that has taken place where either or both teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by the Association 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 8(O) above. Where both teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void.

(G) 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.

For Youth Football – for teams in the under 18 age group or younger, a player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than 15 minutes before the start of the match. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be fined £20.00 (fine reference 10:G). See also Rule 13(N).

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.

(H) The half time interval shall be of 15 minutes duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

(I) The Competition shall require all players and club officials to have signed the FA's Respect Codes of Conduct and produce these if so requested by the League Management Committee.

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

The participating clubs taking part in the fixture shall identify a team captain designated with a captain's armband who has a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her team mates. If the participating players are considered to be too young to take on this role a member of the team coaching staff should provide this support.

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

REPORTING RESULTS

11. (A) The Results Secretary must receive within 3 days of the date played (Sundays excluded), the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner. Failure to comply with this requirement will be dealt with by applying Rule 11 (E). This result sheet 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. This requirement is fully covered within

Rule 11 (C). Failure to do so will incur a fine of £10.00 for each incorrect section and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decides (fine reference 11:C). This rule applies to all Competition matches, even those not played to a conclusion.

(B) Both Clubs shall enter the result of each match onto the website by no later than 8pm on the day of the fixture. For midweek evening fixtures, this deadline will be 10am the following morning to the match. This requirement shall include the referee marks, together with player, spectator and managerial staff marks. This applies to the FA Youth Cup and all County Cup fixtures. All Clubs competing in outside competitions, whether they are the Home Club or the Away Club, shall still be required to telephone the result of each match. Clubs in default of any part of this Rule shall be fined £10.00 (fine reference 11:B). This rule applies to all designated matches, even those not played to a conclusion.

(C) The Fully completed match report sheet must be sent in the envelope provide by the Competition and must have inserted (a) name of Club, (b) correct age, (c) date of match, (d) correct competition circled, (e) team colours, (f) players' shirt numbers, (g) match result, (h) substitutes used marked yes or no, (i) referees marks, (j) referees expenses (home club only) and (k) the sheet shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £10 for each incorrect section, or for not using the correct envelope as supplied by the Competition (fine reference 11:C). Where the postal service is used, first class mail must be used; else the Club will be in default and fined £10 (fine reference 11:C). This rule applies to all designated matches, even those not played to a conclusion.

NB. If the fixed penalty exceeds £20 the Club must be charged as detailed in Rule 5(D).

(D) Leagues are permitted to collect but not to publish results for fixtures they organise for U7 and U8 Mini Soccer. They may require a Club to confirm that a set fixture has been played. A maximum fine of £5 may be imposed for a breach of this Rule.

(E) For all league and cup matches organised by the League, each Club is required to forward a match report sheet, correctly completed and signed by a responsible member of the Club. Failure for this match result sheet being received by the nominated League officer within three days of the match being played will result in such Club(s) being fined £25 (fine reference 11:E) and any incorrectly completed match result sheet as per Rule 11 (C) will incur a fine of £10 (fine reference 11:C) for each incorrect section.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

12. (A) Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with 3 points to be awarded for a win and 1 point for a drawn match. The teams gaining

the highest number of points in their respective Divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points team rankings Will be determined by deciding Matches) played under conditions determined by the Management Committee.

the Management Committee.

(B) Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first _____ and last _____ teams in each Division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 1(b).

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

(ii) Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the season may be filled on any of the following ways:

(a) retention of otherwise relegated team(s)

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

(c) election

(iii) The last _____ teams in the lowest Division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of paragraph (B)(i) above.

(iv) When a senior team is relegated to a lower Division of which its reserve team is a member, or entitled to be a member, such reserve team must accept relegation to, or retain its position in, the next lower Division; and should the senior team be relegated to the lowest Division its reserve team automatically retires from the Competition.

(v) Should either or both of the leading teams in any of the Divisions have its senior team in the next higher Division, promotion shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next highest team or teams in the Division concerned.

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

(D) Where a promotion and/or relegation link exists between Competitions _____ Clubs, providing they meet the appropriate grading criteria, will be eligible to make application to the _____ Competition at their Annual General Meeting. Should the Champion Club not wish for promotion or,

alternatively, not have the necessary grading criteria, then the _____ or _____ place Club will be eligible under the same conditions.

At the end of each season and depending on the geographical location of Clubs gaining promotion to or being relegated from the _____ Competition, it may be necessary for the Competition either (a) to accept a Club from the _____ Competition, or (b) have a Club transferred to the same Competition.

The bottom _____ Clubs in the _____ Competition will be relegated. Each relegated Club will be allocated either to the _____ Competition or to the _____ Competition recommended as most appropriate by the Joint Liaison Committee. _____ Clubs will be promoted to the _____ Competition from the _____ Competition, and the _____ Competition providing that each Club is either the Champion Club or Runner-up or _____ place Club and has the necessary grading criteria.

In the event of there being no eligible Club wishing promotion or not having the necessary grading criteria from any of the Competitions, this will reduce the number of Clubs to be relegated from the _____ Competition.

If only _____ Clubs are eligible or wish for promotion, the bottom _____ Clubs in the _____ Competition will be relegated. If only _____ Club is eligible or wishes promotion, only the bottom Club in the _____ Competition will be relegated.

If no Clubs are eligible, or wish for promotion, no Clubs will be relegated from the _____ Competition.

In the event of a _____ Competition Club not being placed in the bottom _____ Clubs at the end of the season, wishing to resign from the Competition at the end of the season, or having been excluded under Rule _____ only _____ Clubs will be relegated at the end of the season.

In the event of a _____ Competition Club opting to be relegated or being relegated under Rule _____ such Club or Clubs will replace the Club or Clubs otherwise due for relegation.

REFEREES

13. (A) Registered Referees (and Assistant Referees where approved by the FA or County FA) for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the sanctioning Association(s).

(B) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee, the appointed senior Assistant Referee shall take charge and a substitute Assistant Referee

appointed by the competing Teams. In cases where there are no officially appointed Assistant Referees, or where the competition has been unable to appoint a Referee, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee.

(C) The match referee shall be provided by the home team with two (2) match footballs of the required standard as laid down by the League, at least fifteen minutes before the agreed kick-off time. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the home Club being fined £10.00 (fine reference 13:C).

(D) Where Assistant Referees are not appointed, each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee (the team manager, team coach, team physiotherapist and substitutes are deemed unacceptable). Club Assistant Referees should make themselves available to the match referee at least fifteen minutes before the agreed kick-off time. Failure to not comply with any part of this Rule will result in a fine of £25.00 being imposed on the defaulting Club (fine reference 13:D).

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

(F) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the sanctioning Association, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee of U15 and above £40.00: U14 and below £35.00: assistant referees £20.00. All fees are inclusive of travel expenses. Should two teams mutually agree to play a double-header match, the referee and any assistant referees appointed by the competition will each be allowed one and a half times the stated match fee for that age group.

The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees before the match. The home Club shall also provided an official and correctly stamped envelope addressed to the Results Secretary. The Match Official(s) shall give a receipt for their fee(s) as received, if so requested. Clubs failing to comply with any part of this Rule shall, at the discretion of the Management Committee, be fined £20.00 (fine reference 13:F).

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

(H) 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 Association with which he or she is registered.

(I) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the

Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed Form provided. Clubs are also required to enter such marks onto the website as indicated within Rule 11 (B). Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine. A Club providing a mark of 60 or less will be required to write to the Results Secretary along with the Match Report Form giving the reason(s) for the mark awarded. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall, at the discretion of the Management Committee, be fined £25.00 (fine reference 13:I).

(J) 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 Football Association/County Football Association.

(K) The match referee shall submit a report Form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the match, the number of players in each team and the time of kick-off to the Results Secretary within three days of the match (Sundays excluded).

(L) Referees and assistant referees shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules, free of charge.

(M) Referees and assistant referees shall have undertaken a Respect briefing offered by the FA/County FA or the League.

(N) Both teams are to provide the Referee with a fully completed Match Report Sheet at least 15 Minutes prior to the commencement of the Game. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall, at the discretion of the Management Committee, be fined £20.00 (fine reference 13:N).

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

14. (A) After 31st December in the current Season a Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing by 31st March each Season or be liable to a fine not exceeding £50.00 (fine reference 14:A).

All Clubs wishing to remain in membership of the Competition for the following Season must confirm their intention to do so, in writing, to the Secretary by 31st March.

(B) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition after the Annual General Meeting/arrangement of fixtures for the following Season. The season extends into play-off matches for teams finishing top of their sections. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £250.00 per team and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 5(B) (fine reference 14:B).

(C) The Membership for the coming season having been decided at a Special General Meeting held for that purpose not earlier than _____ nor later than 15th June or at the Annual General Meeting held not later than 15th June. The Competition shall have the right, irrespective of other provisions in this Rule, to refuse to permit a Club to withdraw its team(s) in order to join another Competition and may hold the Club to its engagements.

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

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

PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

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

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

(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within 7 days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A Member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.

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

(D) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum of £10.00. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the

defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

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

(i) All parties must have received 7 days' notice of the Hearing should they be instructed to attend.

(ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then they should forward a deposit of £10.00 and indicate such when forwarding the written response.

(F) When dealing with a protest or complaint the Management Committee shall take into consideration the possession by the protesting or complaining Club of any information which, if properly used, might have avoided the protest or complaint.

BOARD OF APPEAL

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

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

EXCLUSION OF CLUBS. OR TEAMS **MISCONDUCT, CLUBS, OFFICIALS, PLAYERS**

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

(B) At the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club or team of a Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) 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 official 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 expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (A) and (B) of this Rule.

(D) Any Club or Team failing to complete 75% of its fixtures in any season shall (unless the conditions are beyond their control, or the accredited delegates present at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting decide otherwise by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast) be debarred from membership the following season.

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

18. (A) 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 Association may decide.

(B) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup, Salver or Trophy:-

“We A _____ and B _____, the Chairman and Secretary of _____ FC, members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of _____ Cup or Trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the Cup or Trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before _____.

We the above Club agree to deposit £100.00 with the Competition to ensure that the above Cup, Salver or Trophy is returned by this date.

We the above Club accept that the attached copy of the receipt is proof of the handover of the Cup, Salver or Trophy and that if that Cup, Salver 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 full cost of its thorough repair.”

In accordance with Rule 18 (B), failure to comply will result in our Club being fined as determined by the Management Committee.

Signed _____ Chairman, _____ Secretary of _____ FC.”
Failure to comply with any section of this Rule will result in a fine as determined by the Management Committee.

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

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

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

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

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

Each Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only, as will members of the Management Committee.

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £30.00 (fine reference 19).

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

ALTERATION TO RULES

20. Alterations, for which consent has been given by the sanctioning Association, shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 19. Any alteration made during the playing season to the Rule relating to the qualification of players shall not take effect until the following season.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by 1st April in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 1st May and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 1st June. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if 51% (a majority) of those present and entitled to vote are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the sanctioning Football Association 14 days prior to the date of the meeting.

FINANCE

21. (A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.

(B) All expenditure in excess of £100.00 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.

(C) The financial year of the Competition will end on 31st March.

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

INSURANCE

22. All Clubs must have public liability insurance cover of at least ten million pounds (£10,000,000).

DISSOLUTION

23. (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a Special General Meeting by a majority of three quarters of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant Special General Meeting.

(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 Association.

(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 Association may decide.

Rules of the Eastern Junior Alliance Challenge Cup Competitions

GENERAL

24.1 The Competition shall be called the Eastern Junior Alliance League Challenge Cup Competition.

24.2 The Competition shall be competed for each season at all age groups and be open to all Member Clubs.

24.3 The Football Association Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws will apply.

24.4 With the following exceptions the Rules of the Eastern Junior Alliance shall apply.

MANAGEMENT

25 The competition shall be managed by the Management Committee of the Eastern Junior Alliance.

DRAW / DATES FOR MATCHES

26.1 The draw for the competition shall be made by the Management Committee prior to the commencement of the season.

26.2 All fixtures and dates for each round of the Competition shall be arranged by the Fixtures Secretary.

26.3 For each cup match for which the home side does not have a pitch available – including the nominated pitch being unavailable due to adverse weather conditions – the fixture must be reversed if the away side has a pitch available on the assigned match date.

Refusal by the drawn home side to reverse the fixture will result in the match being awarded to the opposing side and a fine of £50.00 being levied upon the defaulting Side (fine reference 26:3).

26.4 In all cup matches and play-off matches where the visiting team is required to travel a distance to and from the venue exceeding more than 80 (eighty) miles in total, the kick-off time for such shall be 11am unless both competing teams agree to a different time or if the Management Committee decides upon a different time. This requirement does not apply to mid-week evening kick-offs.

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

27.1 A player who has competed in a cup match cannot compete in another cup match in the same season at a different age group.

27.2 For a player to be eligible to play in a semi-final or final tie, he has to have played in at least three League matches or in an earlier round for his team during the current season. For semi-final ties, a player may also be eligible providing he has registered for this team for a minimum of 28 (twenty-eight) days before the date of the tie and providing that he has not played for another team in the same cup competition during the current season.

27.3 No player shall in the season play for more than one competing club in this Competition.

27.4 In the case of a postponed or replayed match, only those players shall be allowed to play who were eligible on the date arranged for the original fixture.

27.5 A player who has been suspended may, if otherwise qualified, play in a postponed match or replay, providing his term of suspension has expired.

27.6 Any Club playing an ineligible player will be struck out of the Competition and the match awarded to the opponents.

27.7 Such Clubs may also be dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

GROUNDS FOR TIES

28.1 The first club drawn shall, for ties up to and including the semi-final, be deemed to be the Home Team and the matches played on their ground.

28.2 In special circumstances and subject to the consent of the Management Committee matches may be played at another venue.

28.3 The Final Tie shall be played on a neutral ground and on a date arranged by the Management Committee.

28.4 For the Final Tie, the Club indicated as being the Home Team shall be required to fulfil all the administrative duties on match day as would the Home Team be required to undertake when playing at their own ground. This comprises supplying match balls, stamped and addressed envelope to the match referee, telephoning the result and all other duties covered within the Rules of the Eastern Junior Alliance.

DURATION OF PLAY, DRAWN MATCHES

29.1 Playing times shall be in accordance with League Rules, except that in the event of a drawn match, extra time of 30 minutes (15 minutes each way) shall be

played in under 18 matches and 20 minutes (10 minutes each way) for all other age groups.

29.2 If at the end of extra time the score remains level, a penalty shoot out shall apply.

PENALTY SHOOT OUT

30 The taking of penalty kicks in all games shall be in accordance with the F.I.F.A. Directive for the deciding of matches by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark.

REFEREES / ASSISTANT REFEREES

31.1 Registered Referees and Assistant Referees where appropriate shall be appointed in accordance with League Rules.

31.2 Fees shall be paid in accordance with League Rules and charged 50% to each competing Club, except in the Final Tie.

MENTOS

32.1 A trophy shall be presented to the winning Team.

32.2 Medals shall be awarded to the members of both competing Teams and the Match Officials in the Final Tie in lieu of their match fees, if Competition funds allow.

DIVISION OF RECEIPTS / EXPENDITURE

33 All receipts for the Final Tie shall be credited to the League.

Rules of the Eastern Junior Alliance Ingilby Cup, Coleman Cup, Chairman's Cup, Presidents Cup, Treasurers Cup & Patron Cup Competitions

GENERAL

34.1 The Competitions shall be called the Eastern Junior Alliance Ingilby Cup (Under 18), Coleman Cup (Under 17), Chairman's Cup (Under 16), Presidents Cup (Under 15), Treasurers Cup (Under 14) and Patrons Cup (Under 13).

34.2 The Competition shall be competed for each season at the respective age groups and entry to each respective Competition will be confined to those clubs eliminated from the League Challenge Cup in the preliminary and / or first rounds.

34.3 The Football Association Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws will apply.

34.4 All other Rules of the Eastern Junior Alliance League Challenge Cup Competition and / or the Eastern Junior Alliance shall apply.

Rules of the Eastern Junior Alliance Play-off Competitions

GENERAL

35.1 The Competition shall be called the Eastern Junior Alliance League Play-off Competition.

35.2 Where required, the Competition shall be competed for each season at each age group at the discretion of the Management Committee.

35.3 The Football Association Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws will apply.

35.4 With the following exceptions the Rules of the Eastern Junior Alliance shall apply.

MANAGEMENT

36.1 Play-off competitions and matches may be arranged at the discretion of the Management Committee to be played after the conclusion of the season for league fixtures.

36.2 The divisional winners of each age group will automatically be entered into the play-off competition arranged for that age group.

36.3 Play-off competitions will require that each team within that play-off age group shall play each other Club within that group on one occasion in a league match.

36.4 Should a play-off group only have two teams eligible, then the single match played will be conducted as a cup match in accordance with Rules 29 and 30.

DRAW / DATES FOR MATCHES

37.1 Dates for which eligible teams are required to be available for play-off matches will be advised no later than 28th February for the current season.

37.2 The fixtures for each play-off age group shall be arranged by the Management Committee.

37.3 Eligible teams will be required to fulfil matches on all fixture dates advised to them by the Competition. Any such Club withdrawing from the Competition before all matches are completed will be deemed to be resigning from the Competition before the AGM is held (see Rule 14 B).

37.4 The outcome of any unplayed match will be decided in accordance with Rule 10 (F).

MATCHES AND GROUNDS

38.1 If a neutral venue is not arranged by the Competition for any match listed within the play-off fixtures, the first named Club will be identified as the home team and will be responsible for arranging a ground to host the fixture.

38.2 Unless provided for by Rule 36.4, the winning team within each age group shall be determined in accordance with Rule 12, subsections A and C.

REFEREES / ASSISTANT REFEREES

39.1 Registered Referees and Assistant Referees where appropriate shall be appointed in accordance with League Rules.

39.2 Fees shall be paid in accordance with League Rules and charged 50% to each competing Club for each match.

SPECTATORS

40 Where matches are played at a neutral venue, spectators will be required to pay an admission fee to assist covering the cost of arranging such venue. The team manager, coach and each squad player for that match shall not be required to pay this fee.