EASTERN JUNIOR ALLIANCE RULES 2026-27
(Sanctioned by Essex CFA)

DEFINITIONS

1. (A) In these Rules:

"Affiliated Association" means an Association accorded the status of an Affiliated Association under the rules of The FA.
"AGM" shall mean the annual general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.
"Club" means a club for the time being in membership of the Competition.
"Club Portal" means the system used by Clubs to affiliate teams as determined by The FA from time to time.
"Competition" means the Eastern Junior Alliance 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.
"Medical Emergency Action Plan (MEAP)" means a document containing details of the Club's First Aiders, location of nearest Defibs & stretchers, and route and distance to the nearest hospital.
"Mini Soccer" means those participating at ages under 7s to under 11s.
"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 Essex County Football Association Limited.
"Scholarship" means a Scholarship as defined in The FA rules.
"Season" means the period of time between an AGM and the subsequent AGM.
"Secretary" means such person or persons appointed or elected to carry out the administration of the Competition.
"SGM" means a special general meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.
"Team" means a team affiliated to a Club, including where a Club provides more than one team in the Competition in accordance with the Rules.

"Team Sheet" means a form provided by the Competition on which the names of the Players taking part in a Competition match are listed.
"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 **"Eastern Junior Alliance"**(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 100 Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

(C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be London and the South East and Eastern Counties of England. The member Clubs should be affiliated with one of these County FAs: Bedfordshire, Berks & Bucks, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, London, Middlesex, Norfolk, and Suffolk.

(D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Competition acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.

(E) All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation thereto, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.

(F) The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules for Youth Competitions (the "Standard Code") determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.

(G) All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 12 in number.

(H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination
(i) The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (to include those contained in the Equality Act 2010).
(ii) This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community.
(iii) Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.

(I) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA which are adopted by the Competition including, but not limited to, England Football Accredited and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(J) All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The FA from time to time.

(K) Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing at a particular age group in the Competition in any other competition (with the exception of FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. A Club must immediately inform the Competition of the details of any fixture(s) in any other competition in which the Club has entered, for which written consent of the Management Committee has been obtained.

(L) At the AGM or 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.

(M) As an England Football Accredited League this Competition requires all its Clubs to have achieved England Football Accreditation status. New Member Clubs have one year to achieve this status. The League has the right to refuse membership to a Club if it fails to demonstrate commitment to achieving the award.

(N) 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 environment.

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 30th April and must be accompanied by an entry fee per Team as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election but not if the club withdraws its application.

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

Applications for membership will only be accepted provided all applicants participate in the national pyramid system laid out by the Football Association. All Clubs must be Regional NLS Feeder League or above.

Except for in the Under 18's, Any Club is only permitted to have one team in an age group. For the Under 18's there can be two teams only whilst there is no U17 Divisions in the Competition. This allows for the U16s team to play at U17s and then at U18s in the U18 Divisions.

Each Club applying for membership must have a minimum of two teams when applying to join the Eastern Junior Alliance and must maintain at least two teams to remain in membership.

(B) The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club/Team (where a Club has more than one Team in membership of the Competition). It shall be payable by a date set by the Management Committee.

(C) A Deposit of £100 shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club and shall be payable on application to join. 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) Clubs must ensure that all its teams participating in the Competition are recorded as affiliated on the Club Portal for the forthcoming Playing Season by 7th July. Clubs must advise the Competition Secretary in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(F) An all-female team can apply to the Competition to play an age group down in a mixed gender competition, subject to rule 8(A)(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 five members), who shall all be elected at the AGM.

The Officers of the Competition shall be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Registration Secretary, Referees Secretary, Welfare Officer, Fixtures Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, Assistant Secretary, Assistant Referees Secretary, Media Manager, Disciplinary Secretary, Development Officers (Areas), Facilities Officer (Areas), Cups Secretary and Results Secretary to be elected annually at the AGM. (N.B. Auditors/Verifiers are not Officers).

(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 30th April in each year.

All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two Clubs, not later than 30th April in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.

(C) The Management Committee shall meet as and when required, save that no more than three calendar months shall pass between each meeting.

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

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

(E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary.

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

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

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

Management Committee for ratification. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

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

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

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

(F) 50% of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof.

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

(H) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(I) Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision.

Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

(J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.

(K) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season.

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

(M) The Competition shall not cancel, postpone, or withdraw an entire programme of Competition Matches (e.g. all Competition Matches, or all Competition Matches within a single age group or division, taking place over a single day/week) without prior written approval from the Sanctioning Authority, except in exceptional circumstances of a serious nature (in which event, the Competition must provide notification of cancellation, postponement or withdrawal to the Sanctioning Authority at the same time as affected Teams).

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 seven 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 a fee of £35.00, 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 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business (in the following order) shall be transacted provided that at least 50% of members are present and entitled to vote:-
   1. To receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding AGM.
   2. To receive and adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts.
   3. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
   4. Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.
   5. Election of Officers of the Competition and the Management Committee members.
   6. Appointment of auditors/verifiers.
   7. Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14).
   8. Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season.
   9. Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season and confirm which dates will be non-playing weekends
   10. Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.

   Clubs currently in membership of the Competition shall be entitled to vote on items 1 to 3 above.
   Those clubs set to be accepted as Clubs in accordance with item 3 above shall be entitled to attend the AGM but cannot vote on items 1-3 above.
   All Clubs (i.e. those Clubs currently in membership of the Competition and those accepted as Clubs in accordance with item 3) shall be entitled to vote on items 4 to 10 above.

(B) A copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least 14 days prior to the meeting together with any proposed Rule changes.

(C) A signed copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet and statement of accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of its adoption by the AGM.

(D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Fourteen 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) (i) Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
(ii) Any club that has submitted a valid application to join the Competition for the forthcoming season must have the opportunity to be put forward for membership and to have a vote taken on their membership application.

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

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

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

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

10. (A) Membership of the Competition shall constitute an agreement between the Competition and a Club to be bound by and comply with these Rules (including any decision of the Management Committee made pursuant to these Rules).

10. (B) Any change of Chair, Secretary or Directors of the Club must be notified to the parent County Football Association to which the Club is sanctioned and to the Secretary of this Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

11. (A) Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition must do so at least 35 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.

If a Club pulls out a team after the constitution has been agreed but before the season has begun will be charged in line with the fines tariff and lose their team entry. If by withdrawing a team the Club falls below the two team requirements, all teams will need to be withdrawn and the relevant fines applied to each team.

(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 an SGM called for the purpose in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club or Team whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(C) Any Officer or member of a Club found guilty of a breach of Rule, other than field offences, shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of clauses (A) and/or (B) of this Rule.

TROPHY

13. (A) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy: -
"We A [name] and B [name], the Chairman and Secretary of [ ] FC(Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of [ ] cup or trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before [ ]. If the cup or trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care, we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair."

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

Trophies not returned by the date specified in the agreement will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Any Club failing to engrave trophies or return the trophies in a clean state, which they have won, with their name and the season which they won same, will be fined 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 and approved by Sanctioning Authority and The FA.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 1st April in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 15th April and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 1st May. 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 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 £500 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.

(C) The financial year of the Competition will end on 30th April.

(D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be verified annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.

(E) Honoraria, if paid, must be agreed at the AGM and relate to the Playing Season just concluded. The Management Committee shall recommend which Officers may receive honoraria and the level of payment. All the above to be detailed on the AGM paperwork under "Any other business" (Rule 8(A)(x)).

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 Essex County Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Authority.

(ii) If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Sanctioning Authority may decide.

MATCH RELATED RULES

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

18. (A) A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:-

(i) registered through the FA Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition. For Clubs registering Players under this Rule 18(A)(i), Clubs must access the Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process. The registration 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.

or

(ii) Not in use

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.

Clubs must submit any registration before 7pm on the Friday before a Sunday fixture, any registration request received after this time will not be considered until 9am Monday following.

Any club wishing to have players 'play up' a year in their club must register that player with the relevant team following the same registration rules. No additional charge for registering players to different age groups within the same club will be levied.

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

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

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

(iii) Each Team must have the following number of Players registered thirty-five days before the start of each Playing Season:
9v9 format: 9 players
11v11 format: 11 players

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

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

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

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

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

Age on 31 August	Eligible Age Groups	Maximum Permitted Format	Minimum Pitch Size		Maximum Pitch Size		Goal Size	Ball Size
			yards	metres	yards	metres	feet	
11	Under 13	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
	Under 13	9v9	70 x 40	64 x 36.6	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16x7	4
12	Under 14	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7*	5
	Under 14	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7*	5
13	Under 15	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	24x8*	5
	Under 15	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.9	24x8*	5
14	Under 16	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
	Under 16	11v11	90 x 50	82.3 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
	Under 17	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
15	Under 18	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
	Under 17	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
	Under 18	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
16	Open Age	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5

* At Under 14 age group, 21 x 7 is recommended but 24 x 8 is also permitted

* At Under 15 age group, 24 x 8 is recommended but 21 x 7 is also permitted

(D) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered, if applicable.

Each team will deposit the sum of £80 fourteen days prior to the commencement of the season to cover the minimum number of required players (16). Any further registrations will be invoiced on the 1st November, 15th January and 1st April of that season. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(E) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes taking into account the following.

(i) A Player shall not be permitted to register for more than one Club subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) below.

(ii) In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club in the Competition, the valid registration submitted first shall take precedence. The *(Registrations)* 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 Teams in which the Player plays 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 the Player Registration System for registration that the Player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

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

(G) (i) The Management Committee shall 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. 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 for further information. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.
(iv) For a Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18(G)(iii) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 12 months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition would be empowered to consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

(Note: Action under Rule 18(G)(iii) shall only be taken against a Player in cases of the Player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any event be subject to an appeal to the Sanctioning Authority. All decisions must include the period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the Player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match-based discipline, in any competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.)

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

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

(I) A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 6pm on the 31 March 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 their 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 their status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, another Club in the Competition or with a club in another competition their 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 four Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.

(M) A Team shall not include more than 8 Players who have played in six or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season unless a period of 21 clear days has elapsed since they played. 21 clear days is counted by excluding the day when the relevant Player last played and the day when the Player intends to play again.

For the purpose of this Rule a senior competition(s) is any competition at Regional Feeder League or above of the National League System.

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

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

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

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

(a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed; and/or

(b) Deduct points from the record of the Club in default up to a maximum of 3 points; and/or

(c) Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

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

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

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

If a Player's registration is cancelled, they will not be eligible to play in the Competition for a period of 28 days from the date of cancellation.

(R) Teams must have with them at any game played under the Management of the League, a laminated copy of the Player Registration System Squad List with photographs and a completed Match card. These must be exchanged by the two competing Clubs before the match and returned on conclusion. They must also be produced on demand to any League Official. Failure to observe this procedure or failure to produce the registration cards when requested shall render the Club liable to a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) and to such other action as may be decided by the Management Committee. If a Club does not have the Player Registration System Squad List, a protest must be lodged in accordance with Rule 7 for adjudication by the Management Committee. If any irregularity is found, the matter will be dealt with by the Management Committee as provided by the Rules of this Competition on player eligibility (Rule 18).

CLUB COLOURS

19. Every Team must register the colour and design of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 7th July who shall decide as to their suitability.

Any team wishing to change the colour(s) and/or design(s) of its shirt(s) and shorts during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Competition Secretary in advance of making that change.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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 3v3, 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.

Under 13:
Duration of play per half: 20-30 minutes
Max playing time per day (organised development fixtures): 80 minutes (if applicable)
Max playing time per day (tournaments, trophy events/festivals): 120 minutes
Structure: Any varieties including one season long league table

In this Competition the duration of play shall be 60 minutes (30 minutes each half).

Under 14 and Under 15:
Duration of play per half: 25-35 minutes
Max playing time per day (organised development fixtures): 100 minutes
Max playing time per day (tournaments, trophy events/festivals): 150 minutes
Structure: Any varieties including one season long league table

In this Competition the duration of play shall be 70 minutes (35 minutes each half).

Under 16:
Duration of play per half: 25-40 minutes
Max playing time per day (organised development fixtures): 100 minutes
Max playing time per day (tournaments, trophy events/festivals): 150 minutes
Structure: Any varieties including one season long league table

In this Competition the duration of play shall be 80 minutes (40 minutes each half).

Under 17 and Under 18:
Duration of play per half: 25-45 minutes
Max playing time per day (organised development fixtures): 120 minutes
Max playing time per day (tournaments, trophy events/festivals): 180 minutes
Structure: Any varieties including one season long league table

In this Competition the duration of play shall be 90 minutes (45 minutes each half).

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 Secretary at least 7 days prior.

Unless by prior agreement by both teams and the match referee, the match duration will be as above (maximum duration per half). In addition, kick-off times must be between 10.00am and 2.00pm – unless by prior agreement of both teams in writing.

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.

Goal nets must be used. Failure to comply with this rule will incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Footballs of the type authorised by the Competition must be provided to the match referee in their changing room at least fifteen minutes before play commences. The size of football to be used: size 4 for those playing under 13 age group; size 5 for all other age groups.

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

Each team must have a First Aid kit at the pitch side. 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).

Each team shall have up to two free Sundays of their choice. Thirty days' notice must be given in writing to the relevant Fixture Secretary. This is in addition to the Christmas, New Year and Easter Sunday weekends. After February, no closed dates will be permitted unless authorised by the League Management Committee.

(C) An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground, time of kick-off and kit colours (including goalkeeper) to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least five clear days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. The opposing Club must confirm receipt and give notice of its kit colours (including goalkeeper) at least four days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. If either is not provided, the relevant Club and Match Officials 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.

An Officer of the home Club must ensure that the kick off times are input into Full Time before 8am Monday mornings. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

The notice must include a Medical Emergency Action Plan (MEAP).

(D) The minimum number of Players that will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is as follows:
9v9 format: 6 players
11v11 format: 7 players

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

(E) (i) In competitions where points are awarded, home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall decide whether it should either:
a. award the points from the Competition Match in question to the Club's opponent (without the awarding of goals)
OR
b. order the Competition Match to be rescheduled. The Management Committee shall also have the power to order the rescheduled Competition Match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent Club's ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

In addition, the Management Committee may at its discretion order one or more of the following (if appropriate):
a. impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff),
b. deduct points from the defaulting Club,
c. order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents.

(ii) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Fixtures Secretary, the League Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, the League Results Secretary, the secretary or manager of the opposing Club and the appointed Match Officials. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(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 seven 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.
Providing gate money is taken and retained the visiting Club shall receive their actual standard class rail or bus fares or the equivalent for eighteen persons, or car allowance at 30p per mile for transporting four 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 Competition Match. 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) If a Competition Match is abandoned, each participating Club must give notice of the abandonment to the Competition by the deadline set out in Rule 21(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

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.

In Youth Football only, the referee shall be informed of the names and the substitute Players not later than fifteen 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 fifteen 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 Youth Football shall identify a Team captain who shall wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(I) Where a suspension imposed in relation to:

(i) a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations); or

(ii) The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children or Regulations for Safeguarding Adults at Risk

upon a Club or Team by The FA or Affiliated Association is not lifted, and/or the Club does not provide confirmation from The FA or Affiliated Association that such suspension is lifted to the Competition Secretary by 2 days before a fixture, that fixture will be treated as an unfulfilled fixture and dealt with in accordance with Rule 20(E)(i).

(J) Both Clubs are required to complete the Team Sheets showing Surname, First Name and shirt number in Block Capitals of participating players and substitutes 15 minutes before the scheduled kick-off BOTH TEAMS are required to give copies of the Team Sheet to the opponents and to the referee. This Team Sheet shall also show the name of the referee. Defaulting Clubs shall be reported and shall be fined for each separate offence.

(K) All under 18 matches must be played on the Clubs main Pitch. 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. Spectators should be designated an area on the opposite side to the technical areas and behind the boundary rope.

All teams must, when notifying the League of the venue for the current season, make sure that the venue is no more than ten miles from the club's main ground. Any changes to the notified venue must be agreed in advance with the League in writing.

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

(L) Both participating teams are to arrive at the confirmed venue no later than one hour before the notified kick-off time. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(M) Separate dressing rooms and hot showers shall also be provided for each team along with separate facilities for match official(s). 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.

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

(N) Only named substitutes and a maximum of three Officials of the club are allowed within the dug-out during the match. No more than two people are allowed to stand in the technical area at any one time and then only to convey instructions to their team. If there is no dug-out but there is a technical area only three persons are allowed to stand in that area at any one time and then only to convey instructions to their team. If there is no dug-out or technical area then all persons must stay behind the barrier throughout the match.

For the purposes of this rule, "Officials" shall mean persons registered on the Whole Game System as officials of the club.

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

(O) HOSPITALITY

(i) A Home Club Match Delegate / Respect Officer should meet and greet the opposing team and match officials upon arrival, offer refreshments and show them to the changing rooms. Offer refreshments to the match officials at half time and ensure everyone knows where the end of match hospitality will be served. They should be available for queries or to ensure player and supporter safety whilst at the venue and instil the FA Respect campaign. This nominated official should be present at the match venue a minimum of one hour before the scheduled kick-off time of the match. Failure to comply with this rule will incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(ii) 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 (optional), players and managers in the Club House.
Clubs failing to comply with these requirements shall be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Visiting teams should avail themselves of the hospitality shown by the home team. If such a team has an exceptional reason for not accepting such hospitality, this should be notified to the home team in writing at least 5 days before the agreed match kick-off time and copied to the League Secretary and Fines Secretary. Should any team not correctly decline this hospitality they will be fined in accordance with the fines tariff.

(P) 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 on arrival at the ground and after the game before taking hospitality. Failure to comply with this rule will incur a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(Q) Each team must be staffed so they are able to operate in the event of the manager/coach being unavailable and also to be able to draft in other Club coaches to maintain the required number to run the team.

REPORTING RESULTS

21. (A) The Results Secretary must receive by 8pm on 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, and other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Additional information required is: starting players, used substitutes, unused substitutes, goal scorers.
The prescribed manner shall be via Full Time. If using the Match Day App you MUST check the information has appeared on Full Time, only using the App is not a reason for failure of information in Full Time.

(B) Both Clubs shall use SMS to notify the result of each Competition Match to the League website by 8pm on the day of the fixture. For midweek evening fixtures, this deadline will be within 24 hours of the match being played. 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 enter the result onto the website or text the Fixture and Result Secretaries. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Club, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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 in use.

(C) The age group champions will be determined by a play-off competition in a format to be determined in each playing season by the Management Committee. The winning team in each age group division at the conclusion of the season, or the team leading each division on a date

specified at the start of the season by the Management Committee, shall be invited to participate in the play-off competition.

(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.

Where a team withdraws having completed 75% of its fixtures the points for any unplayed games shall be awarded to the defaulting team's opponents.

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 their fees and expenses in accordance with the Fees Tariff.

Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the home Club before/immediately after the Competition Match or within 24 hours by BACS if agreed in advance with the match official when sending confirmation. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(F) In the event of a Competition Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to full fee 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 their engagement and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated Association with which they are registered.

(H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The FA, award marks to the referee for each Competition Match and the name of the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

(I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the form provided by the prescribed date each Season, shall submit a summary to The FA/County FA.

(J) The referee shall submit a report form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the Competition Match, the number of Players in each Team, the time of kick-off and any other information required by the Competition to the Results Secretary within two days of the Competition Match.

(K) Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.

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

Approved ECFA 20.8.2026 Including Competition amendments June 2026.

SCHEDULE A

FEES TARIFF

RULE	DESCRIPTION	FEE
4 (A)	Entry Fee	£ 50
4 (B)	Annual Subscription (per Club) Annual Subscription (per Team)	£ 50 £150
4 (C)	Deposit	£ 100
7 (C)	Protest Fee	£ 25
18 (D)	Player Registration Fee (16x included in initial invoice)	£ 5
18 (H)	Transfer Fee (2x included in initial invoice)	£ 10
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES Under 13 (max.£35 inclusive) Under 14 & 15 (max.£40 inclusive) Under 16 (max.£45 inclusive) Under 18 (max.£50 inclusive) Travel expenses	 £ 35 £ 40 £ 45 £ 50 0 p/mile
23 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES Under 13 (max.£25 inclusive) Under 14 & 15 (max.£25 inclusive) Under 16 (max.£25 inclusive) Under 18 (max.£35 inclusive) Travel expenses	 £ 25 £ 25 £ 25 £ 35 0 p/mile

FINES TARIFF

RULE	DESCRIPTION	MAX. FINE
2 (I)	Failure to comply with FA initiatives	£ 50
2 (K)	Unauthorised entry of teams into competitions	£ 50
3	Failure to obtain consent for change of Club name	£ 30
4 (C)	Failure to pay deposit	£ 50
4 (E)	Failure to ensure teams are recorded as affiliated in the Club Portal	£ 25
5 (E)	Communications conducted by persons other than nominated officers	£ 25
6 (H)	Failure to comply with an instruction of the Management Committee	£ 50
6 (I)	Failure to pay fine within required time frame	£ 25
8 (H)	Failure to be represented at AGM	£ 50
9	Failure to be represented at SGM	£ 50
10 (B)	Failure to notify changes to signatories	£ 25
11 (A)	Failure to provide notice of intended withdrawal before deadline	£ 50
11 (B)	Failure to commence/ complete fixtures	£ 100
13 (A)	Failure to submit the required trophy agreement	£ 25
13 (A)(ii)	Failure to return trophy engraved and/or by given date	£ 50
16 (A)	Failure to have the required public liability insurance	£ 100
16 (B)	Failure to have the required personal accident insurance	£ 100
18 (A)	Failure to correctly register a player	£ 25
18 (B)(iii)	Failure to have the required number of registered players	£ 25
18 (D)	Failure to pay player registration fees	£ 25
18 (F)	Registering or playing for multiple clubs, or inaccurate completion of a registration form	£ 25
18 (G)(ii)	Registration irregularities	£ 100
18 (N)(i)	Playing an ineligible player	£ 25
18 (O)(i)	Failure to give priority to school activities	£ 25
19	Failure to obtain consent for change of Club colours	£ 25
19	Delaying kick off by not having a change of colours	£ 25

19	Failing to number shirts	£ 25
19	Youth names appearing on shirts	£ 25
20 (A)	Late kick off	£ 25
20 (A)	Failing to provide goal nets, corner flags, suitable footballs	£ 25
20 (A)	Failure to have a First Aid kit at the pitch side	£ 25
20 (B)	Failure to play matches on the date fixed	£ 50
20 (C)	Failure to provide details of a fixture (first time)	£ 10
20 (C)	Failure to provide details of a fixture (subsequent times)	£ 25
20 (C)	Failure to provide details of kick-off time by 8am (first time)	£ 10
20 (C)	Failure to provide details of kick-off time by 8am (subsequent times)	£ 25
20 (E)(i)	Failure to keep engagement (first time)	£ 50
20 (E)(i)	Failure to keep engagement (subsequent times)	£ 100
20 (E)(ii)	Failure to notify postponement	£ 50
20 (E)(iii)	Failing to account for gate money	£ 50
20 (E)(vi)	Failure to notify of abandonment of match	£ 50
20 (F)	Failing to provide a team sheet to the match official (first time)	£ 15
20 (F)	Failing to provide a team sheet to the match official (subsequent times)	£ 30
20 (H)	Failing to identify a team captain	£ 10
20 (J)	Failing to complete team sheet procedure	£ 15
20 (K)	Failing to meet minimum pitch requirements	£ 25
20 (L)	Failing to arrive at venue at required time	£ 25 min.
20 (M)	Failing to comply with dressing room requirements (first time)	£ 25
20 (M)	Failing to comply with dressing room requirements (subsequent times)	£ 50
20 (N)	Failing to abide by the technical area official allowance (first time)	£ 10
20 (N)	Failing to abide by the technical area official allowance (subsequent times)	£ 25
20 (O)(i)	Failing to meet and greet match officials and opposition (first time)	£ 10
20 (O)(i)	Failing to meet and greet match officials and opposition (subsequent times)	£ 25
20 (O)(ii)	Failing to provide refreshments (match official first time)	£ 20
20 (O)(ii)	Failing to provide refreshments (match official subsequent times)	£ 50
20 (O)(ii)	Failing to provide refreshments (opposition first time)	£ 37
20 (O)(ii)	Failing to provide refreshments (opposition subsequent times)	£ 75
20 (O)	Failing to take hospitality as away club (first time)	£ 50
20 (O)	Failing to take hospitality as away club (subsequent times)	£ 75
20 (P)	Failing to comply with Dress Code (first time)	£ 20
20 (P)	Failing to comply with Dress Code (subsequent times)	£ 50
21 (A)	Late result sheet (first time)	£ 10
21 (A)	Late result sheet (subsequent times)	£ 25
21 (B)	Failure to provide result (first time)	£ 10
21 (B)	Failure to provide result (subsequent times)	£ 25
21 (C)	Incorrect result sheet (first time)	£ 10
21 (C)	Incorrect result sheet (subsequent times)	£ 25
23 (C)	Failure to provide Club assistant referee	£ 25
23 (E)	Failure to pay match officials' fees and expenses	£ 20
23 (F)	Failure to pay match officials where a match is not played	£ 25
23 (H)	Failure to provide referee mark (first time)	£ 10
23 (H)	Failure to provide referee mark (subsequent times)	£ 25