

# **Thames Valley Football Development League**

## **Competition Rules**

**2021-2022**

# 1. DEFINITIONS

(A) In these Rules:

“**Affiliated Association**” means an Association accorded the status of an affiliated Association under the Rules of The FA.

“**AGM**” shall mean the Annual General Meeting held in accordance with the constitution of the Competition.

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

“**Competition**” means the Thames Valley Football Development 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.

“**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.

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

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

“**Match Officials**” means the Referee, the Assistant Referees and any fourth official appointed to a Competition Match.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“**Sanctioning Authority**” means Berks & Bucks County Football Association Limited.

“**Scholarship**” means a Scholarship as set out in Rule C 3 (a) (i) of the Rules of The FA.

**“Season”** means the period 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.

**“The FA”** means The Football Association Limited.

**“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**

### **2. COMPETITION NAME AND CONSTITUTION**

- (A) This Competition will be known as the Thames Valley Football Development League. 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) The Competition shall consist of not more than forty-four (44) Clubs approved by the sanctioning Authority.
- (C) The geographical area covered by the Competition shall be within a fifteen (15) mile radius Slough Town Hall.  
Clubs from outside this radius may also apply for membership. The Management Committee shall consider such applications and make recommendations to the Annual General Meeting, but shall be subject to acceptance at the Annual General Meeting or, if the application is made after the Annual General Meeting, then shall be subject to acceptance by the Management Committee providing all entrance criteria has been met.
- (D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by the Competition acting (save where otherwise specifically mentioned herein) through the Management Committee in accordance with the rules, regulations and policies of The FA.
- (E) All Clubs shall adhere to the Rules. Every Club shall be deemed, as a member of the Competition to have accepted the Rules and to have agreed to abide by the decisions of the Management Committee in relation thereto, subject to the provisions of Rule 7.
- (F) The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules for Youth Competitions (the “Standard Code”) determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.

- (G) All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Berks & Bucks Football Association and the constituent Teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in Divisions, each not exceeding fourteen (14) in number.

(H) **Inclusivity and Non-Discrimination**

(i) The Competition and each Club shall 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 shall 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.

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

- (I) Clubs must comply with the provisions of any initiatives of the FA which are adopted by the Competition including, but not limited to, Charter Standard and RESPECT programmes. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (not exceeding £50.00) 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 F.A. and County F.A. Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (L) At the 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 22.

This Competition and its Clubs shall support The Football Association'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 courtesy and fairness by opposing players, Club Officials and spectators. The League and its Clubs shall seek to play fixtures in a fair, competitive but not antagonistic environment.

The Competition shall provide Mini Soccer for players who have attained the age of six (6) years but not the age of ten (10) as at midnight 31<sup>st</sup> August in a playing season.

The Competition shall provide 9-a-Side football for players who have attained the age of nine (9) years but not the age of twelve (12) as at midnight 31<sup>st</sup> August in a playing season.

The Competition shall provide 11-a-Side football for players who have attained the age of eleven (11) as at midnight 31<sup>st</sup> August in a playing season.

Other formats of Youth football as authorised from time to time by The Football Association are also permitted.

### **3. CLUB NAME**

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.

### **4. ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT**

- (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same club must be made in writing to the Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> May and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee of (£20.00 per Team) as set out in the Fees Tariff, which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

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

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.

Any application received after the Annual General Meeting shall, in addition to the application fee, be subject to a £30.00 administration Fee.

- (B) The Annual Subscription shall be (£70.00 per Team) as set out in the Fees Tariff. Clubs shall be invoiced on 1<sup>st</sup> July. The Subscription shall include entry to any internal Cup Competition.
- (C) Each Club shall pay a Deposit (£50.00 per Team) as set out in the Fees Tariff for Teams in Age Groups Under 12 to Under 18 inclusive. New Teams shall be invoiced on 1<sup>st</sup> July. The Deposit shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition providing they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.
- (D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Entry Fee, Annual Subscription and Deposit have been paid.
- (E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 1<sup>st</sup> July of its Berks & Bucks County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, failing which they shall incur a fine (not exceeding £5.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff. Clubs shall advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its Headquarters, Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines tariff.
- (F) An all-female team can apply to the Competition to play an age group down in a mixed gender competition, subject to rule 8A(iii) & (iv) and provided the team has obtained approval from its Sanctioning Authority.

## **5. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION**

(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 Age Group Representatives, who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

(B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than 1st June in each year.

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 (2) Member Clubs, not later than 31<sup>st</sup> May 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 as and when required, save that no more than three (3) 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 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 shall be conducted through their nominated Officers and sent to the Secretary.

Communications may be submitted by email with any monies to be submitted within fourteen (14) days of the said email. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (not exceeding £25.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

(F) Should any elected member of the Management Committee be absent from two (2) consecutive meetings of the Management Committee without reasonable excuse the Management Committee shall have power to declare the seat vacant.

## **6. POWERS OF MANAGEMENT**

(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 Football Association or affiliated Association.

An Emergency Committee, consisting of all Officers and Age Group Representative shall be convened at the discretion of the Chairman.

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

- (C) Each Member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee Meetings and have one (1) 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 of the Management Committee 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. Any action by the Competition shall 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 seven (7) days from the date of notification of the charge to reply. In such reply a Club may:-

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

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

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

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

The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £100.00 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee shall ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

No Participant under the age of eighteen (18) can be fined.

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

- (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 shall be notified in writing to those concerned within seven (7) days.

- (F) 50% of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of 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 shall comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, and shall attend to business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (not exceeding £100.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Subject to its right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges shall be paid within fourteen (14) days of the date of posting 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 sum within a further fourteen (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 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 Meeting or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition season.
- (L) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee shall be transacted by electronic mail.
- (M) A Club failing to be represented at a Council or General Meeting shall be liable to a fine (not exceeding £50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff and failing to be represented on three (3) consecutive Meetings without satisfactory reasons being given shall be fined a further sum (not exceeding £50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff. All Club delegates or deputies shall sign the Attendance Register at each meeting. Not less than seven (7) days' notice shall be given of any meetings.

## **7. PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS**

- (A) (i) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee or a Sub-Committee duly approved by the Management Committee.
- (ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue shall not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the 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 in duplicate with the Secretary within seven (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) 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 £25.00 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 enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

All protests in writing shall be signed by the Club Chairman or Secretary of the complaining Club.

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

(i) All parties shall have received fourteen (14) 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 £25.00 and indicate such when forwarding the written response.

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

- (F) Any appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority within 14 days of the posting of the written notification of the decision causing the appeal, accompanied by a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff), which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. A copy of the appeal must also be sent to the Secretary. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority, in such respect the Sanctioning Authority may (but is not obliged to):

- (i) invite submissions by the parties involved; or
- (ii) convene a hearing to hear the appeal; or
- (iii) permit new evidence; or
- (iv) impose deadlines as are appropriate.

Any appeal shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Management Committee.

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

## **8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- (A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30<sup>th</sup> June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least twenty (20) members are present and entitled to vote:-

- (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
- (iii) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
- (iv) Constitution of the Competition for ensuing season.
- (v) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
- (vi) Appointment of Verifiers of Accounts.

- (vii) Alteration of Rules, if any (See Rule 14)
  - (viii) Fix the date for the commencement of the season and kick-off times applicable to the Competition.
  - (ix) Fix the date for the end of the playing season
  - (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.
- (B) A copy of the duly verified Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting together with any proposed changes..
- (C) A signed copy of the duly verified Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Berks & Bucks County Football Association within fourteen (14) days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.
- (D) Each Member Club shall be empowered to send two (2) delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one (1) vote only. Not less than fourteen (14) days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.
- (E) Clubs who have withdrawn their Membership of the Competition during the season being concluded or who are not continuing Membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the season being concluded.
- (F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.
- (G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one (1) Member Club.
- (H) Any continuing Member Club shall be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting.

## **9. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) 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 (7) days notice shall be given of either meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two (2) delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one (1) vote only as shall 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 (£50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

## **10. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED**

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

"We, A, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman) and B \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (Secretary) of the \_\_\_\_\_ Football Club have been provided with a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Thames Valley Football Development League and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.

Any alteration of the Chairman and/or Secretary on the above Agreement shall be notified to the Berks & Bucks County Football Association to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary of the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£25.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

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

## **11. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB**

- (A) Any Club wishing to resign from the Competition shall do so at least sixty (60) days before the AGM. Failure to do so shall result in a fine (£10.00) 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 (£25.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6(I), in the event of a member Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee are empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.

## **12. EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAMS MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICIALS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

- (A) At the AGM or Special General Meeting 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 further membership, both of which must be supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A member of the Management Committee or Club which is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

- (B) At the AGM, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club or Team whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable, which must be supported by more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- (C) Any Officer or member of a Club proved guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a Player or Players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of clauses (A) and/or(B) of this rule.

### **13. TROPHY**

- (A) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy:-  
“We A \_\_\_\_\_ and B \_\_\_\_\_, the Chairman and Secretary of \_\_\_\_\_FC, members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of Thames Valley Football Development League Cup or Trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the Cup or Trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before 1st March. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.”  
The League shall issue a reminder to all Clubs at the February Council Meeting. Failure to return the said Trophy by 1st March. the Club shall be liable to a fine (£5.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (B) At the close of each Competition awards shall be made to the winners and runners-up if the funds of the Competition permit

### **14. ALTERATION TO RULES**

Alterations, for which consent has been given by the sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alterations 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 28<sup>th</sup> February in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals from the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 15<sup>th</sup> March and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

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 more than two-thirds (2/3) of those present and entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations and proposed amendments to be considered at the AGM or SGM shall be submitted to the Berks & Bucks Football Association at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting.

## **15. FINANCE**

- (A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition shall 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 (2) Officers nominated by the Management Committee.
- (C) The financial year of the Competition shall end on 31<sup>st</sup> May.
- (D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be verified annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

## **16. INSURANCE**

- (A) All Clubs shall have valid Public Liability Insurance cover of at least ten (10) million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.
- (B) All Clubs shall have valid personal accident cover for all players registered with them from time to time. The players' personal accident insurance cover shall 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.

Failure to comply with Rule 16(A) or 16(B) will result in a fine (not exceeding £100.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

## **17. DISSOLUTION**

- (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a Special General Meeting by a majority of three quarters (3/4) 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.

# MATCH DAY RULES

## 18. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

(A) A player is one who, being in all respects eligible has:-

1. Registered through the FA Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition.

For any players registered on the day of a match, a Club Officer must email the Competition with details of the registration [ ] hours prior to the scheduled kick off time in order for the player to be eligible to play in that match. The Player shall not play again in any subsequent match in the Competition until the Club has registered the player through The FA Player Registration system and is in possession of the approval from the Competition. A maximum of [ ] Players may be registered in this manner

or

2. signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink on a match day prior to playing which is countersigned by his/her parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club and witnessed by an Officer of the opposing Club, and submitted to the Competition within two days (Sundays excluded) subsequent to the Competition Match. The Player shall not play again in a subsequent match in the Competition day until the Club has registered the player through The FA Player Registration System and is in possession of the approval from the Competition. A maximum of [ ] Players may be registered in)this manner. The registration document must incorporate emergency contact details of the Players' parents or guardians. These details must be available at matches and training events the Player attends within the management of the Club or Competition;

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

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

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

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

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

(ii) A player registered with a FA Premier League or English Football League Academy under the Elite Player Performance Plan contained within Youth Development Rules shall not be permitted to play in this Competition. A player registered with a Centre of Excellence may only play in this Competition subject to the Regulations of the Programme of Excellence. Details of the Youth Development Rules are published on the FA web site.

A player registered with a FA Girls' Regional Talent Club may play in this competition subject to the FA Programme for Excellence (Female) regulations.

(iii) Each Team shall have the following number of players registered fourteen (14) days before the start of each playing season:

<b>Format</b>	<b>Minimum Number</b>
5 v 5	5
7 v 7	7
9 v 9	9
11 v 11	11

Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£25.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

The relevant age for each player is determined by his or her age as at midnight on 31 August of the relevant playing season.

i.e. Children who are aged six (6) as at midnight on 31 August in a playing season (together with those who attain the age of six (6) during the playing season) will be classed as Under 7 players for that playing season. Children who are aged seven (7) as at midnight on 31 August in a playing season shall be classed as Under 8 players for that playing season, and so on.

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

The age groups that children are eligible to play in are set out in the table below, subject to Rule 4(F), along with the permitted football formats for each of those age groups. Children shall not play, and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match between sides of more than the stated number of players, according to their age group:

Age on 31 August of the relevant Playing Season	Eligible Age Groups	Maximum Permitted Format	Minimum Pitch Sizes		Maximum Pitch Sizes		Recommended Goal Sizes In feet	Ball Size
			Yards	Metres	Yards	Metres		
6	Under 7	5v5	30x20	27.45 x 18.3	40x30	36.3 x 27.45	12x6	3
	Under 8		30x20	27.45 x 18.3	40x30	36.3 x 27.45	12x6	3
7	Under 8	5v5	30x20	27.45 x 18.3	40x30	36.3 x 27.45	12x6	3
	Under 9	7v7	50x30	45.75x27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	3
8	Under 9	7v7	50x30	45.75x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	3
	Under 10		50x30	45.75x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	3
9	Under 10	7v7	50x30	45.75x 27.45	60x40	54.9 x 36.6	12x6	3
	Under 11	9v9	70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15x 45.75	16x7	4
10	Under 11	9v9	70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15x 45.75	16x7	4
	Under 12		70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15x 45.75	16x7	4
11	Under 12	9v9	70x40	64 x 36.6	80x50	73.15x 45.75	16x7	4
	Under 13	11v11	90x50	82.3x45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
12	Under 13	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
	Under 14		90x50	82.3 x 45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
13	Under 14	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	100x60	91.44 x 54.9	21x7	4
	Under 15		90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
14	Under 15	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
	Under 16		90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
15	Under 16	11v11	90x50	82.3 x 45.75	110x70	100.58 x 64	24x8	5
	Under 17		100x50	91.44x 45.75	130x100	118.87x91.4	24x8	5
	Under 18		100x50	91.44x 45.75	130x100	118.87x91.44	24x8	5
16	Under 17	11v11	100x50	91.44x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
	Under 18		100x50	91.44x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5
	Open Age		100x50	91.44x 45.75	130x100	118.87 x 91.44	24x8	5

- (D) A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered, if applicable.
- (E) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes taking into account the following.
- (i) A Player shall not be permitted to register for more than one Club subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) below.



(ii) In the event of a Player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club priority of registration shall decide for which Club the Player shall be registered. The Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the Player of the fact of the previous registration subject to the exceptions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) below.

- (iii) A Player is only permitted to register for more than one Club provided that:
- a. The Team(s) in which the Player plays in are not in the same age group; or
  - b. Except for the purpose of a transfer.
- And the Player meets the requirements in Rule 18(C).

A player registering with a Team in another Sunday Competition shall first have his registration with that Team cancelled before being permitted to register with any Club in this Competition. Confirmations of any deregistration to be supplied to the Registration Secretary at the time of registration.

Oposing Team Managers shall request to see and verify proof of their opponents' players Registration before the start of the match. If not complied with, no protest regarding eligibility shall be considered. A League Officer may request to see Registration Cards at any time. A refusal shall be dealt with by the Management Committee in the same manner as a Team fielding ineligible players according to Rule 8(Q) below. When a Team Manager has been requested to show Team photographs, he shall produce them prior to the completion of the match. Failure to do so shall be deemed a refusal.

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

- (F) It shall be a breach of these Rules for a player to:-

Play for more than one (1) Club in the same age group in the Competition in the same season without first being transferred.

Having registered for one (1) 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.

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 shall result in a fine (£50.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

- (G) (i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player subject to the provisions of Rule 18(G) (ii) and (iii) below.
- (ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player, the exercise of such power being without prejudice to the Management Committee's ability to fine a Club at its discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) that has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).

(iii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse or cancel the registration of any player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct, such refusal or cancellation being subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority. Where the management Committee does not have enough information to enable it to make decision pursuant to the above power, it may apply, in its absolute discretion, to the Sanctioning Authority of The FA for further information.

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

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

(Note: Action under Rule 18(G)(iii) shall only be taken against a player in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any event be subject to an appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. All decisions shall 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 one-hundred and twelve (112) days' suspension, or ten (10) match based discipline, in a period of two (2) years or less from the date of the first offence.)

(H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C2(a) when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another Club it shall submit a transfer form (in a format as determined by the Competition) to the Competition accompanied by a fee (£5.00) as set out in the Fees Tariff. Such transfer shall be referred by the Registration Secretary to the Club for which the player is registered. Should this Club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Registration Secretary and to the player concerned within three (3) days of receipt of the notification.

Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within three (3) days, the Registration Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date.

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 after 1<sup>st</sup> March nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 1<sup>st</sup> 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 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 (1) Team in an age group, each Team shall be clearly identifiable but not designated 'A' or 'B' or 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>. In such cases, players shall be registered for one (1) Team only. A player so registered shall be allowed to play for his Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 18(C).

- (K) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration, shall be kept by the Registration Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged.  
Registrations are valid for one (1) season only.
- (L) A player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 22(A)) unless the player has played two (2) games for that Team in this Competition in the current season.
- (M) A Player who has played for a team four (4) times or more shall not in that season be eligible to play in a lower division except by permission of the Management Committee.  
Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (N) (i) Subject to Rule 18(N)(ii) any Club found to have played an ineligible player in a match or matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of twelve (12) points, and have levied upon it a fine (not exceeding £50.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.  
(ii) The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out in Rule 8(R)(i) only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the player's status.  
(iii) Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible player in accordance with Rule 18(N)(i) above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion:  
(a) Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed;  
(b) Levy penalty points against the Club in default; or  
(c) Order that such match or matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).
- (O) (i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities.  
(ii) The availability of children shall be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday Leagues).  
(iii) 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 Competition match during that playing season where any other player is older or younger than that child by two years or more

## **19. CLUB COLOURS**

Every Team shall register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> May who shall decide as to their suitability.

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

Goalkeepers must wear colours, which distinguish them from 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 the colours in which they shall play to its opponents at least two (2) days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the Referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the Home Team shall make the change. Any Team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off by not having a change shall be fined (£10.00) 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. Shirts must all be numbered differently, failing which a fine will be levied as set out in the Fines Tariff. Names of Youth Players shall not appear on the shirts, failing which a fine will be levied as set out in the Fines Tariff.

## **20. PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES**

- (A) All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board or, for Mini-Soccer, and 9v9 football, the Rules as set down by The FA.

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

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

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

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

All 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 match, and in any event shall be of equal halves.

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

Age Group	Minimum Duration of play per quarter (minutes) Mini-Soccer	Maximum Duration of play per quarter (minutes) (Mini-Soccer only)	Minimum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum duration of play per half (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all organised development	Maximum playing time in one day in all tournaments and trophy events/festivals	Competition structure
Under 7 and Under 8	5	10	10	20	40	60	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 2 week periods (6 weeks)
Under 9 and Under 10	10	12.5	20	25	60	90	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 4 week periods (12 weeks)
Under 11	N/A	N/A	20	30	80	120	Development focussed with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 6 week periods (18 weeks)
Under 12	N/A	N/A	20	30	80 (if applicable)	120	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 13 and Under 14	N/A	N/A	25	35	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 15 and Under 16	N/A	N/A	25	40	100	150	Any varieties including one season long league table
Under 17 and Under 18	N/A	N/A	25	45	120	180	Any varieties including one season long league table

Competition Matches for age groups from U7 to U10 can be played in either quarters or halves. This Competition uses quarters/halves (delete as appropriate).

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 match with written notification given to the Secretary at least seven (7) days prior.

Each Club shall designate whether their Teams shall play their Home Fixtures with a morning or afternoon kick off.

Designated morning kick offs shall be no earlier than 9.30am and no later than 11.30am, afternoon kick offs shall be no earlier than 1.00pm.

Failure to agree the kick off time then the kick off time will be 10.30am for morning kick offs and 2.30pm for afternoon kick offs.

Referees shall order matches to commence at the appointed time and shall report all late starts to the Secretary.

The Home Team shall provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two footballs fit for play and the Referee shall make a report to the Secretary if the footballs are unsuitable. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

No fixtures shall be arranged by the Fixtures Secretary for dates between the Christmas and New Year holidays. Additionally, no fixtures shall be arranged by the Fixtures Secretary for the Easter weekend except when requested by Clubs in writing to the Fixtures Secretary.

Also, no fixtures shall be arranged by the Fixtures Secretary for the first Sunday of the October and February Slough schools' half term holidays except when requested by Clubs in writing to the Fixtures Secretary.

Each team shall be permitted two (2) free dates per season, provided these are requested in writing to the Fixtures Secretary at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the relevant date.

- (B) Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches shall be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The FA and parent County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches shall be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the Fixtures Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (not exceeding £20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

- (C) An Officer of the Home Club shall give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the group and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least five (5) clear days prior to the playing of the match. If not so provided, the Away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (not exceeding £20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

<b>FORMAT</b>	<b>MINIMUM NUMBER</b>
5v5	4
7v7	5
9v9	6
11v11	9

Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (not exceeding £20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (E) (i) In Competitions where points are awarded Home and Away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have the power to impose a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff, 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.

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) Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a fixture has been postponed for any reason shall, without delay, give notice to the Fixtures Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointments Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials. Any Club failing to comply shall incur a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(iii) In the event of a team not being able to fulfil a fixture due to excessive illness or injury to players it shall provide evidence to the Fixtures Secretary within seven (7) days of the scheduled match to substantiate any application for postponement.

(iv) 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 (2) Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixtures Secretary within seven (7) days the Management Committee shall have the power to order the 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 the abandonment to stand. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£20.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(v) 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. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

(vi) 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 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 8(M)(i) above. Where both Teams were under suspension the match shall be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

(F) For 9v9 and 11v11 games, a Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use five (5) substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from five (5) players.

For Mini-Soccer, 5v5 and 7v7, any number of substitutions may be used at any time with the permission of the Referee. Entry onto the field of play will only be allowed during a stoppage in play. A player who has been replaced may return to the play as a substitute for another player. A Team shall not have a match day squad greater than double the size of its team in an age group.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes prior to the start of the match.

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

A player who has been substituted during a match himself becomes a substitute and in turn, 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.

**Power Play** is available through all mini soccer football formats 5v5 and 7v7.

If a team is losing by a four goal difference they can put an additional player on – so 5v5 becomes 6v5.

If the score returns to less than a four goal difference the team takes off a player. It does not have to be the last player to come on.

If a team goes on to be losing by a six goal difference a further additional player can be added – so 6v5 becomes 7v5.

If the score returns to less than a six goal difference the team takes off a player. It does not have to be the last player to come on.

- (G) The half time interval shall be of five (5) minutes duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
- (H) The Teams taking part in Youth Football shall identify a Team captain who may wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her Team Mates. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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 (2) 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 arrangement should be made.

- (I) Official school activities shall take precedence in all cases, but Teams may only postpone matches if four (4) or more registered players are taking part in official school activities.
- (J) The League shall require all players and Club Officials to have signed The Football Association'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.

- (K) Each team shall complete a Thames Valley Football Development League Match Report Sheet with the following information:
  1. Date of Match
  2. Age Group, Division or Cup Match
  3. Each Team's names and colours
  4. Players' names in block letters, against the shirt or short number that they are wearing for the match.
  5. Referee's name.
  6. Date of match confirmation and name of Club



Teams shall exchange copies, in the presence of the Referee who shall also retain a copy prior to the scheduled kick-off.

Failure to do so shall result in a fine (£5.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

Clubs shall be able to add additional names to the Team Sheet if there is a shortfall of the initial five (5), seven (7), nine (9) or eleven (11) players only, at any time.

In “The Laws of the Game” all substitutes shall be nominated prior to the commencement of the match.

All players registrations shall be checked before entering the field of play.

## **21. REPORTING RESULTS**

- (A) The Result Secretary must receive within two (2) days of the date played, the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner. This shall include the forename(s) and surname of the Team players (in block letters) and also the Referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition. Failure to do so shall incur a fine (£5.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (B) In all matches organised by this Competition the Team Managers shall TEXT their results to Full-Time within two (2) hours of the completion of the match.

The HOME Team shall report the result of each match to the Results Secretary before 7.30pm on the day of the match (Sundays) and before 7.30pm on the Sunday following the match for midweek matches.

In outside Sunday Competitions both HOME and AWAY Teams shall report the result as above.

Failure to comply shall result in a fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

“Result” is defined as abandoned, postponed, unfulfilled or match result.

- (C) **No or Incomplete Match Report**

The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club. Failure to do so shall result in a fine (£5.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

If a Match Report Sheet has been reported as not being received, or incomplete at a Management Committee Meeting, and has not been received by the next Management Committee Meeting, the Club shall be fined (£5.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff, and shall be suspended from the following Monday, until all outstanding information has been received.

- (D) The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect but NOT publish results or any grading tables for fixtures involving Under 7s, Under 8s, Under 9s, Under 10s, and Under 11s. Any Competition failing to abide by this Rule shall be dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and any Club failing to abide by this Rule shall be fined (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff. The Competition and Clubs are permitted to collect and publish results for trophy events.

- (E) The Competition may require a Club to confirm that a set fixture has been played. A fine (£10.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff may be imposed for a breach of this Rule.

(F) **Protests**

Clubs wishing to lodge a protest regarding player eligibility shall mark the Team Sheet accordingly. The protesting Club should return their copy of the opponents' Team Sheet, along with their grounds for complaint in accordance with Rule 15.

## **22. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP**

(A) In Competitions where points are awarded, Team rankings within the Competition shall be decided by points with three (3) points to be awarded for a win and one (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 shall not be played for double points.

(B) In the event of two (2) or more Teams being equal on points for the TOP or RUNNERS-UP position in any of the League Tables at the close of the Competition, they shall be declared Joint Champions or Joint Runners-up.

In the event of two (2) or more Teams being equal on points for any other positions in any of the League Tables at the close of the Competition, goal difference shall decide.

(C) In the event of a Team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the playing season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Team shall be expunged from the Competition table.

For the purposes of this Rule 12(C) a completed fixture shall include any Competition match which has been awarded by the Management Committee.

Where a Club has completed 75% of its fixtures, the points for any unplayed matches shall be awarded to the defaulting Club's opponents.

## **23. MATCH OFFICIALS**

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

(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 game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee.

Individuals under the age of 16 shall not participate either as a Referee or Assistant Referee in any open age competition and individuals under the age of 14 shall not participate either as a Referee or Assistant Referee in any competition.

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 do so shall result in a fine (£5.00) 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 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 shall be accepted.
- (E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Association, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid their fees inclusive of expenses in accordance with the Fees Tariff.

Referee:                   £35.00 inclusive of expenses for Under 17 – Under 18 Age Groups  
                              £30.00 inclusive of expenses for Under 12 – Under 16 Age Groups  
                              £25.00 inclusive of expenses for Under 11 Age Groups  
                              £18.00 inclusive of expenses for Under 9 – Under 10 Age Groups  
                              £12.00 inclusive of expenses for Under 7 – Under 8 Age Groups

Assistant Referee: £15.00 inclusive of expenses for all Age Groups

The Officials fees for each match are equally shared by each Team and to be paid to the Officials PRIOR TO THE START OF EACH MATCH.

Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£5.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (F) In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee. Where a match is not played owing to one (1) Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Officials, if they attend the ground, their full fee. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (£5.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (G) A Referee not keeping his engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to his non-appearance, may have his name removed from the list of Referees and the fact reported to the Association with which he is registered.
- (H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by The Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed Form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined (£5.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.
- Any Club marking a Referee any marks of fifty (50) or less, the Club shall in writing to the Referees Secretary, within fourteen (14) days of the date of the match, give their reasoning for the mark. Failure to comply shall result in a fine (£5.00) in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (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 Football Association/County Association.
- (J) The 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 Referees Secretary within two (2) days of the 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 RESPECT briefing offered by The Football Association, County Football Association or the League.

## CUP RULES

These Competitions shall be a Subsidiary Competition of the League.

1. There shall be one (1) Trophy for each competitive age group of the Thames Valley Football Development League called the Thames Valley Football Development League for which each Team is automatically entered.
2. All Competitions shall be affiliated to Berks & Bucks FA and the entire control and management of the Competitions shall be vested in the Management Committee of the Thames Valley Football Development League
3. The Competitions shall be annual.
4. No player shall play for more than one (1) Team in any Cup Competition. No player shall be allowed to play for a Team unless he has been registered forty-eight (48) hours prior to the match. In a Final Tie no player shall be allowed to play unless he has played at least two (2) games, excluding friendlies, for that Team in that season.

A Team playing a player who has not been duly registered or is not properly qualified shall be fined a sum (not exceeding £50.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff and shall be removed from the Competition.

Once a player has played for any Team in any Thames Valley Football Development League Cup match, he shall remain cup-tied to that Team for the remainder of the season in that particular Cup Competition in all age groups.

5. All necessary byes shall be given in the First Round and all ties shall be played on dates determined by the Management Committee. The arrangements for the Final Tie, which shall be played on a neutral ground, where possible, shall be made by the Management Committee. Where gate money is charged in the Final Tie, all such monies shall be paid into the funds of the Thames Valley Football Development League after expenses have been paid.
6. The Team which is drawn first shall have the choice of ground in all rounds up to and including the Semi-Final. The Finals to be played on a neutral ground, where possible, as arranged by the Fixture Secretary and where possible a minimum of fourteen (14) days notice shall be given to competing Teams in the Semi-Finals and Finals. Should Teams agree to play on a ground other than drawn, both Teams shall apply in writing to the Fixture Secretary for confirmation.

Teams shall send in a Result Sheet for all Cup Rounds in accordance with Thames Valley Football Development League Rule 11(A).

7. In all knockout Competitions in the event of the scores being equal at full time, the winners shall be decided by the taking of kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with International Board recommended procedures.
8. In all ties, both Teams shall provide two (2) suitable match balls.

Each finalist shall forward to the Secretary and their opponents a list of players who shall be representing the Club in the Final and at the same time the colours of shirts, shorts and socks being used in the Final no later than twenty-one (21) days preceding the date of the Final.

Team Sheets and Registration Cards shall be produced at all Finals.

Failure to comply shall result in a fine (£10.00) as set out in the Fines Tariff.

9. The Competitions shall be run on a knockout basis but the Management Committee shall have the power to alter the basis if the number of competing Teams so justify.
10. The powers of the Management Committee shall extend to all matters arising from the conduct of the Competitions even if not specifically dealt with in these Rules or in the general Rules of the Thames Valley Football Development League so far as they apply.
11. In the event of additional Cup Competitions being organised within the Thames Valley Football Development League, each Team in membership shall be automatically entered, whether there is an entry fee or not, unless a request not to enter is made in writing.

**SCHEDULE A****FEES TARIFF**

<b>RULE NUMBER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>FEE</b>
<b>3 (A)</b>	<b>ENTRY FEE</b>	<b>£20.00</b>
<b>3 (B)</b>	<b>ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION</b>	<b>£70.00</b>
<b>3 (C)</b>	<b>DEPOSIT</b>	<b>£50.00</b>
<b>8 (D)</b>	<b>REGISTRATION FORM</b>	<b>£1.00 (per Player)</b>
<b>8 (H)</b>	<b>TRANSFER FORM</b>	<b>£5.00</b>
<b>13 (E)</b>	<b>REFEREE FEES (inclusive of Expenses)</b>	<b>U17-U18 £30.00 U11-U16 £25.00 U9 - U10 £18.00 U7 - U8 £12.00</b>
<b>13 (E)</b>	<b>ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES</b>	<b>£15.00</b>
<b>15 (C),16</b>	<b>PROTEST/APPEAL FEES</b>	<b>£25.00</b>

## FINES TARIFF

<b>RULE NUMBER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>FINE</b>
<b>2 (G)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO AFFILIATE</b>	<b>£50.00</b>
<b>2 (I)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES</b>	<b>£50.00</b>
<b>2 (K)</b>	<b>UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS</b>	<b>£50.00</b>
<b>4 (C)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT</b>	<b>£50.00</b>
<b>4 (E)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS FORM</b>	<b>£50.00</b>
<b>5 (E)</b>	<b>COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS</b>	<b>£25.00</b>
<b>6 (H)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>	<b>£100.00</b>
<b>6 (I)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN 14 DAYS OF NOTICE</b>	<b>Double original fine up to £100.00</b>
<b>8 (H)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT COUNCIL MEETING</b>	<b>£50.00</b>
<b>8 (H)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM</b>	<b>£50.00</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM</b>	<b>£50.00</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT OR TO NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES</b>	<b>£25.00</b>
<b>11 (A)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE</b>	<b>£100.00</b>
<b>11 (B)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES</b>	<b>£100.00</b>
<b>13 (A)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY</b>	<b>£25.00</b>
<b>16 (A)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE</b>	<b>£100.00</b>
<b>16 (B)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE</b>	<b>£100.00</b>
<b>18 (A)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER</b>	<b>£25.00</b>
<b>18 (B)(iii)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON COMMENCING</b>	<b>£25.00</b>
<b>18 (F)</b>	<b>SIGNING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM</b>	<b>£25.00</b>
<b>18 (G)(ii)</b>	<b>REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES</b>	<b>£50.00</b>
<b>18(N)(i)</b>	<b>PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER</b>	<b>£50.00</b>
<b>18 (O)(i)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>£50.00</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS NAMES OF PLAYERS APPEAR ON SHIRT</b>	<b>£10.00 (per shirt, up to an agg max of £30)</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOUR</b>	<b>£10.00</b>
<b>20 (A)</b>	<b>DELAYING KICK OFF/NO NETS/ NO CORNER FLAGS</b>	<b>£10.00</b>
<b>20 (B)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED</b>	<b>£20.00</b>
<b>20 (C)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE</b>	<b>£20.00</b>
<b>20 (D)</b>	<b>PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQD NO OF PLAYERS</b>	<b>£20.00</b>
<b>20 (E) (i) (ii) (iii)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE</b>	<b>£20.00</b>
<b>20 (H)</b>	<b>NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND</b>	<b>£10.00</b>
<b>21 (A) &amp; 21 (C)</b>	<b>LATE TEAM SHEET</b>	<b>£5.00</b>
<b>21 (B)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO PROVIDE RESULT</b>	<b>£10.00</b>
<b>21(D)</b>	<b>PUBLISHING RESULTS FOR FIXTURES INVOLVING U7s, U8s, U9s, U10s OR U11s</b>	<b>£50.00</b>
<b>23 (C)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE</b>	<b>£5.00</b>
<b>23 (E)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES</b>	<b>£5.00</b>
<b>23 (F)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED</b>	<b>£5.00</b>
<b>23 (H)</b>	<b>FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK</b>	<b>£5.00</b>
<b>CUP RULE 4</b>	<b>PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER</b>	<b>£50.00</b>
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Fines Tariff