

15. FINANCE	
15.A	The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
15.B	All expenditure in excess of £75 shall be approved by the Management Committee.
15.C	The financial year of the Competition will end on 31 st May.
15.D	The accounting records or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be [audited/verified] annually by a suitably qualified person(s) who shall be appointed at the AGM.
16. INSURANCE	
16.A	All Clubs must have valid Public Liability Insurance cover for a minimum of ten million pounds (£10,000,000) at all times.
16.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.
16.C	Failure to comply with Rule 16.A or 16.B will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
16.D	Fixtures cannot be arranged for member clubs without these insurances.
17. 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.
17.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.
17.C	<p>The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Any surplus assets { save for a trophy or any other presentation}, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Authority. 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

18. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS	
18.A	<p>A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Registered through the Player Registration System and received approval from the Competition. <i>For any players registered on the day of a match, a Club Officer must submit the player registration on Whole Game by 9pm Thursday 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.</i> <i>Or</i> <i>signed a fully and correctly completed Competition emergency registration form in ink on a match day prior to playing which is countersigned 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 on a in a 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 2 Players may be registered in this manner at any one time</i> <p>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.</p>

18.A	<p>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 by the Player Registration System, Clubs must access the Player Registration System in order to complete the registration process.</p> <p>Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p>
18.B	<p>1. 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 Pyramid System.</p> <p>2. 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.</p> <p>3. Each team must have at least 11 Players registered 14 days before the start of each Playing Season. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p> <p>4. In the event of a Non-Contract Player changing their status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, 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.1</p>
18.C	<p>A Player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) shall be permitted to register for a Club but will be suspended from football activities if the Player does not comply with the terms of the Football Debt Recovery Regulations in respect of that Football Debt.</p>
18.D	<p>A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered.</p>
18.E	<p>The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes.</p> <p>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 Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.</p>
18.F	<p>It shall be a breach of Rule for a Player to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred. 2. Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season except for the purpose of a transfer, <i>or where the Competition adopts rule 18.P</i> 3. Submit a signed registration form as per Rule 18.A.2 or submit a registration through the Player Registration System that the Player had willfully neglected to accurately or fully complete. <p>Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p>
18.G	<p>1.The Management Committee shall accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rules 18.G.2 and 18.G.3 below.</p> <p>2.The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player or may fine any Player, at their discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).</p> <p>3.The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the Player is registered or intending to be registered with.</p> <p>Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.</p> <p>1. A Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18.G.3 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 may consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.</p> <p>(Note: Action under Rule 18.G.3 shall not be taken against a Player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and then only in cases of the Player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any event be subject to an appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. All decisions must include the period of restriction. For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the Player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match-based discipline, in any competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.)</p>

18.H	<p>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 notification to the Competition via the Player Registration System. A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff <i>will</i> be required.</p> <p>Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the club for which the player is registered. Should this club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the player concerned within 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or 7 days after receipt of such transfer.</p> <p>In the event of an objection to a transfer the matter shall be referred to the Management Committee for a decision.</p>
18.I	A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 31 st March except by special permission of the Management Committee
18.J	Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.
18.K	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 3 Competition Matches for that Team in the current playing season.
18.L	<p>A Team shall not include more than 2 Players who has/have played in Step 3 or more senior competition matches during the current playing season unless a period of 21 clear days has elapsed since they last 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.</p> <p>For the purpose of this Rule a senior competition(s) is Step 3 leagues and above.</p> <p>Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p>
18.M	<p>1.Subject to Rule 18.M.2 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).</p> <p>2.The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18.M.1 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.</p> <p>3.Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18.M.1 above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion order one or more of the following (if appropriate):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Award the points available, or tie, in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed; or Levy penalty points against the Club in default; or Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee). <p>Note: Please refer to rule 24.D(3) for cup match sanctions for player registration/suspension breaches.</p>
18.N	<p>The following clause applies to Competitions involving Players in full-time secondary education:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Priority must be given at all times to activities of schools and school organisations. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. The availability of children and young people must be cleared with the Head Teachers or Principals (except for Sunday leagues competitions). To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.
18.O	<i>A Player who has played for a Team in the premier or senior division 5 times or more shall not in that Playing Season be eligible to play in a lower division except by permission of the Management Committee.</i>

18.P	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>If a Player's registration is cancelled they will not be eligible to re-register in the Competition for a period of 28 days from the date of cancellation</i></p>
18.Q	<p>A maximum of 10 emergency player registrations can be used in accordance with this paragraph 18(A)(2) up until the 31st March each year but as a maximum of 2 can be used in any one match. Players that are registered via the emergency registration process cannot be deregistered from that team until 14 days has elapsed since the date of their respective emergency registration.</p> <p>Note: Double header match clarification; an emergency registered player shall be eligible to play in both games of that double header.</p> <p>If a player has signed the emergency registration card but is subsequently found to be registered to another member club, as long as that player has not played in any match/es for the original club for a period of no less than 90 days prior to the date of that emergency registration then that player will be considered clear to register for the new team and a transfer fee will be applied.</p>
18.R	<p>Twenty-eight (28) clear days must be allowed for bulk (11+) player registrations prior to the first scheduled competitive fixture. Each club with more than one (1) team in the league will announce each team's squad 14 days before the start of the season each year. Thereafter, each team will separately sign any new players. The transfer of any player from one team to another has a cost of £5 on each occasion.</p>
18.S	<p>If a player is deregistered from a member club but then registers with another member team within twenty-eight (28) days, this action will be considered a transfer and all transfer rules and fee apply.</p>
18.T	<p>Clubs with more than one team within this Alliance will be permitted to interchange players as follows;</p> <p>Movement of players from the lower team to the higher team is unlimited but any player originally registered for the lower team that plays five times for the higher will by default automatically be transferred to the higher team and subsequently will not be eligible to play for the lower team again in that current season. In such circumstances the standard transfer fee of £5 will apply (Rule 18H).</p> <p>A maximum of two players per game will be permitted to interchange from the higher team to the lower team but any player originally registered for the higher team that plays five times for the lower team will by default automatically be transferred to the lower team and subsequently will not be eligible to play for the higher team again in that current season. In such circumstances the standard transfer fee of £5 will apply (Rule 18H).</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, the team named as the "A" team may not necessarily be the higher division team unless they are in the same division.</p> <p>Note: There will be no movement at all between two or more teams within the same club after the transfer deadline date of 31st March each season. Any team that breaches this rule, will be charged with playing an ineligible player (see Rule 18.M) and will be fined in accordance with the fines tariff.</p>
18.U	<p>A maximum of 40 players can be registered per team at any one time. Teams will not be able to register additional players or emergency sign any player until they have deregistered a player first on the Club Portal which has been completed by the Registration Secretary. It is the responsibility of the club to confirm with the Registration Secretary prior to the match being played that any additional player/s are eligible to play. Any team found playing player/s above this threshold will be in breach of rule (18.M.1).</p>
19.CLUB COLOURS	
19.A	<p>Every team must register the colour and design of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 1st August and the Competition Secretary shall decide as to their suitability.</p>
19.B	<p>Any team wishing to change the colour(s) and/or design(s) of its shirt(s) and short(s) during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Competition Secretary in advance of making that change.</p>
19.C	<p>Goalkeepers must wear colours which distinguish them from all other Players and the Match Officials.</p>

19.D	No Player, including the goalkeeper, shall be permitted to wear black or very dark shirts.
19.E	Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents of the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeeper's jersey) at least 5 days before the Competition Match.
19.F	If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the <i>away</i> 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.
19.G	Shirts must all be numbered, and no two shirts shall have the same number, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff
20.PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY, TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES	
20.A	<p>All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 Match(es) on another ground.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The home Club is also responsible for advising Participants of footwear requirements when confirming match arrangements in accordance with Rule 20.C.</p> <p>Within Regional NLS Feeder Leagues, all Competition Matches shall have a duration of 90 minutes. All other Competition Matches shall have duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than sixty (60) minutes) 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. Two matches involving the same two Teams can be played on the same day providing the total playing time is not more than 120 minutes.</p> <p>The times of kick-off shall be agreed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs and the Competition. Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition.</p> <p>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 not provided. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p> <p>No overhead netting is allowed for 9v9 and 11v11 affiliated matches</p> <p><u>Regional NLS Feeder Leagues:</u> Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are removed for all affiliated matches at Regional NLS Feeder League level</p> <p><u>For those leagues which are not Regional NLS Feeder Leagues:</u> 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.</p>
20.B	<p>Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches must be played on the dates originally agreed 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 Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p> <p>In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs must be given by the Competition 5 clear days' notice of the match (unless otherwise mutually agreed).</p>

20.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 5 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 4 days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. If either is not provided, the relevant Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
20.D	In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the minimum number of Players which will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is 7. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
20.E	<p>1. 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:</p> <p>a. award the points from the Competition Match in question to the Club's opponent (without the awarding of goals)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>a. 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.</p> <p>In addition, the Management Committee may at its discretion order one or more of the following (if appropriate):</p> <p>a. impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff),</p> <p>b. deduct points from the defaulting Club,</p> <p>c. order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents.</p> <p>2. Any Club with more than one Team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence:- First Team, Reserve Team, A Team.</p> <p>3. 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 Competition Fixtures Secretary, the secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p> <p>4. In the event of a Competition Match not being played or being 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 Competition. Failing such agreement and notification to the Competition within 28 days the Competition shall have the power to order the Match to be played on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p> <p>5. 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 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 award the points for the Match to the opponent. In cases where a 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 Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Match.</p> <p>6. Where a competition match has been abandoned for any reason both Clubs must, within 24hrs, give notice to the League Secretary. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.</p> <p>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 18.M above. Where both Teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.</p>

20.F	<p>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 name up to 5 substitute Players of whom not more than 5 may be used.</p> <p><i>A Player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace a Player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of the Game.</i></p> <p><i>Where a Competition does allow return substitutes, a Team may use up to 5 from 5 substitute Players in a Competition Match.</i></p> <p>The referee [and a representative of the opposing Club] shall be informed of the names of the Players taking part in the Match (including the substitutes) not later than 15 minutes before the start of the Competition Match and a Player not so named may not take part in that Competition Match.</p> <p>A Player who has been named as a substitute before the start of the Competition Match but does not actually play in that game shall not be considered to have been a Player in that Competition Match within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition.</p>
20.G	<p>The half time interval shall be of 5 minutes' duration, but it shall not exceed 15 minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.</p>
20.H	<p>The Teams taking part in a Competition Match shall identify a Team captain who <i>shall wear</i> an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of their teammates. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p>
20.I	<p>Where a suspension imposed in relation to a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) upon a Club 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 9pm 2 days before a fixture, that fixture will be treated as an unfulfilled fixture and dealt with in accordance with Rule 20 P(a)(b)(c)(d).</p>
20.J	<p>All home ground dates should be forwarded to the fixtures Secretary by the date notified on the permit & pitch availability form, no later than 15th August. Failure to do so will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.</p>
20.K	<p>The times of kick-off shall be fixed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing clubs prior to the scheduled date of the competition match with written notification given to the competition at least 7 days prior.</p>
20.L	<p>Each team shall complete a competition match sheet on the day. If a team does not complete a team sheet prior to the game, the game is not to be played, and the result will be determined by the management committee. There are three (3) sheets pertaining to one (1) fixture. The top sheet is white and is handed to the match referee after the player registration check has been completed and both teams have counter-signed their opponent's sheet. The 2nd sheet is yellow and is a duplicate of the top sheet. This sheet is swapped between both teams so that each team has a copy of their opponent's signed team sheet that has been handed to the match official on the day. This sheet is for the team to keep safe, and produce should there be any appeal/protest of unregistered/ineligible players in that fixture. If you do not keep that team sheet, then you may waive your right to any appeal/protest of unregistered/ineligible players for that fixture. The 3rd and final sheet is to be completed by your club post-match. This would include all the stats from the match that's required by the competition. Your Full Time team sheet should replicate this sheet (other than emergency signings on the day).</p> <p>The Referee shall make their way to the field of play 15 minutes before the scheduled kick off time where they are offered their fee and handed the completed competition sheets by both teams; the home team shall provide two match balls fit for play. Failure to pay the referee on the day will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.</p> <p>Note: If your intention is to pay the referee their fee via Bank Transfer then this option MUST be discussed and agreed at least 24hrs prior to the match. Ultimately, it is solely the match officials preferred choice of payment that shall be the determining factor. If the referee fails to confirm payment details, then cash must be available on the day to make payment.</p> <p>The Referee must receive copy of the team sheet from both teams at least 15 minutes prior to kick-off (for Cup Finals this must be 30 minutes prior to kick-off time), with named substitutes clearly marked and ensuring all written shirt numbers correspond with those worn by the player. Teams delaying the start of the match by not having their team sheet ready for the referee will be fined for causing a late kick-off in accordance with the fines tariff.</p>

20.L	Teams are encouraged to complete a competition sheet 25 minutes prior to the scheduled kick off time. Any team failing to commence at the appointed kick off time shall be fined a sum in accordance with the fines tariff (1-15 minutes) or (16-30 minutes), 30 minutes late is the cut off time for a scheduled kick-off, teams later than 30 minutes will not be permitted to record this fixture as a competitive match and the result will be decided by the Management Committee. The result will be covered by Rule 20 P. NOTE: Member clubs causing continual late kick-offs will be dealt with in line with Rule 6I.
20.M	Fixtures, having been issued shall be deemed to have been accepted unless objections are received by the Fixtures Secretary in writing, within seven days of their issue. All matches must be played on <u>stated/published dates, or as directed by the Fixtures Secretary or the Management Committee.</u>
20.N	For midweek matches, notice must be given by 9pm Sunday prior to playing the match. Any team which does not notify their opponents and/or match official(s) by midday on the preceding Thursday may lose the right to play the match and be liable for the full cost of the match official(s). The points or the tie may be awarded to the opposition, with a scoreline of 0-0 being recorded. In all cases, email communication (where possible) will be deemed acceptable. When sending details to your opposition you must include your kit colours (including goalkeepers) and a PDF of your squad list downloadable from the Club Portal, the away team must send their PDF squad list to their opposition when confirming details.
20.O	If a team fields only 6 players, a match cannot start. Similarly, if during a match, a team is reduced to 6 players either by injury, disciplinary action, (excluding temporary dismissals) or other circumstances, the match should not continue and should be abandoned immediately. The circumstances should be reported by both teams and the referee, where appointed by the league, to the league secretary and Fixtures Secretary within two days of the match. In certain circumstances the Referee must also report the abandonment to the County FA. Every team shall play its best available qualified team or teams in all matches in the competition. (Note: The intention of this Rule is not to interfere with normal team selection by teams, but to prevent them deliberately fielding a weakened team in order to unreasonably preserve players for another game or boost the strength of another lower team. If, in the opinion of the Management Committee, the substance or the spirit of the Rule is obviously being disregarded, the team or teams concerned may be called to account for its/their actions and shall be subject to such decisions as <u>the Management Committee may determine, despite the fact that Rule 18 has not been infringed</u>).
20.P	The decision-making process into non-played fixtures is as follows: a) If you are the HOME TEAM and withdraw (fail to fulfil the fixture) before noon on the Thursday prior to the match (or Sunday 9pm for a midweek fixture) = the away team is awarded the match, 0-0 scoreline (walkover in a cup tie), HOME team is charged £10 for non-fulfilment of fixture and an additional charge of £50 for loss of revenue by the away team. b) If you are the HOME TEAM and withdraw (fail to fulfil the fixture) after noon on the Thursday prior to the match (or Sunday 9pm for a midweek fixture) = the away team is awarded the match, 0-0 scoreline (walkover in a cup tie), HOME team is charged £10 for non-fulfilment of fixture, an additional charge of £50 for loss of revenue by the away team. If a club fails to notify the Fixtures Secretary before midday on the Saturday prior to the match, this will result in the full referee costs being levied against the defaulting team, unless the Referee can be reallocated an alternative fixture on the same date by the Referee's Secretary. (See Rule 23)). c) If you are the AWAY TEAM and withdraw (fail to fulfil the fixture) before noon on the Thursday prior to the match (or Sunday 9pm for a midweek fixture) = the home team is awarded the match, 0-0 scoreline (walkover in a cup tie), the AWAY team charged £10 for non-fulfilment of fixture and an additional charge of £50 for loss of revenue by the home team. Note: Cancellation of the permit is the sole responsibility of the home team as no permit costs will be awarded in this scenario. d) If you are the AWAY TEAM and withdraw (fail to fulfil the fixture) after noon on the Thursday prior to the match (or Sunday 9pm for a midweek fixture) = the home team is awarded the match, 0-0 scoreline (walkover in a cup tie), the AWAY team charged £10 for non-fulfilment of fixture, an additional charge of £50 for loss of revenue by the home team. If a club fails to notify the Fixtures Secretary before midday on the Saturday prior to the match, this will result in the full referee costs being levied against the defaulting team, unless the Referee can be reallocated on an alternative fixture on the same date by the Referee's Secretary. (See Rule 23). A receipt of the permit invoice for that specific date will be required within seven (7) days for reimbursement of the permit costs otherwise the claim will be void, the maximum claim of a pitch cost is £150. The HOME team must contact the Fixtures Secretary as soon as possible if their permit becomes available due to a non-played fixture to see whether their permit can be used elsewhere and also contact the Referee's Secretary to ensure that the official can be utilized in another fixture

20.Q	<p>Notice of all abandoned matches must be given to the Fixtures Secretary by both Teams on the day of the match and also to the Results Secretary via text using the code A-A. Both teams shall write to the League Secretary within 24hrs explaining the reason for this postponement/abandonment (email is acceptable). Any rearranged abandoned fixture will be 50/50 split costs between both competing teams, failure to report will attract a fine in accordance with the fines tariff. (See Rule 20 E 6)</p>
20.R	<p>Double Header Matches – In the event of inclement weather and/or adverse playing conditions the Management Committee may authorise the playing of Double-Header games in order to ensure that the League programme is brought to an orderly completion. Double-Header games only consist of two teams playing one another twice on the same day at the same location. Double-Header games will only be introduced when strictly necessary. The Home team will be determined and notified by the Fixtures Secretary.</p> <p>Each match may consist of different registered players for each team. Full match card procedure must be followed for each separate match and separate match and separate team sheets must be completed for each game and sent to the Registration Secretary in accordance with Rule 21(A).</p> <p>A team not ready to play at the time of the first scheduled kick-off shall be deemed as absent, the second game will be played as soon as possible.</p> <p>No more than a 15 minute break shall be allowed between the two separate matches. Half-time intervals may be reduced if agreeable to both sides and the referee. Should a second match of a double header not be fulfilled the defaulting team will be charged for non-fulfillment of fixture and attract a fine of £10 only. The duration of each game shall be 30 minutes each way. (See Standing Order I)</p> <p>All permit costs are to be shared equally for Double-Headers between the two competing teams on the day. Note: An exception to this rule is if two competing teams play their Home matches at the same venue and pay annually for pitch hire rather than on a weekly basis. Each team shall share the costing of the match official(s).</p> <p>In terms of player registration eligibility criteria, an emergency registered player for the first match is also eligible for the second fixture. A player who is dismissed from the field of play by the referee in the first match shall be eligible to take part in the second game.</p>
20.S	<p>If fixtures are arranged late, or altered, or any other problems concerning match arrangements, the Teams must keep the Fixtures Secretary, match official(s) and opponents fully informed of the situation. They must contact all parties no later than the Tuesday prior to the match and any further details must be confirmed to all parties by the Thursday preceding the match. If the kick-off time of a scheduled match is different from a 10.30 kick-off (except for Cup Finals) then the Fixtures Secretary must obtain written confirmation from both affected teams of their acceptance of this change with a copy of such records sent to the League Secretary. Member clubs are advised that due to inclement weather, pitch availability and exceptional circumstances, the kick-off time may be moved on a pro-rata basis but verbal communication (email sent is not accepted in this case as confirmed notice) will be the primary contact method.</p>
20.T	<p>Any Team not wishing to play on a specific date must make a written application (a “no game request”) to the Fixtures Secretary at least 28 days before the date they wish not to play.) This does not apply to Cup Finals, where no such dispensation will be granted). Successful applications outside of this limit will not be considered. Teams may submit only two requests per season, unless evidence of extraordinary circumstances can be provided (bereavement, etc). If your team does not want to play Easter Sunday, you can advise us on the home permit form or you will need to submit a no game request at least 28 days before, however this will not form part of your 2 no game requests. (Not: Wedding parties, “stag” weekends or other pre-arranged social arrangements will NOT be permitted as a reason for not playing without due notice – all such events are inevitably subject to planning and such details should be well-known to a club, therefore allowing ample time to submit a “no game request”). Any applications may be declined if it is detriment to the completion of the competition.</p>
20.U	<p>When the home team plays on the away Club’s permit, the cost of the permit must be paid for on the day. Teams in default will be fined in accordance with the fines tariff. The defaulting team will have until noon on the following Thursday to settle the outstanding permit cost. After this Rule 6(I) applies.</p>
20.V	<p>If a player is sent off the field of play for any offence, they must remove themselves from the sideline and away from the field of play. The distance required is subjective however they cannot be heard or participate in any capacity for the remainder of that match. Any player that is reported to the Management Committee for non-adherence of this rule will be reported to the County Football Association for further sanctioning.</p>
20.W	<p>After the month of January in the playing season, should the home team pitch not be playable/available then the opposition pitch shall be used. This is regardless of teams having played each other in the playing season. Should the opposition pitch also not be playable or available then the management committee shall decide on another ground before postponing the game.</p>

21. REPORTING RESULTS	
21.A	The Competition Registration Secretary must receive within 4 days of the date played, the result sheet of each Competition Match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the Team Players (in block letters) <i>[and also the referee markings required by Rule 23, or any other information required by the Competition]</i> . Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
21.B	Both teams shall use telephone/SMS/WhatsApp/email/ FA Full Time/FA Matchday as directed by the competition to notify the result of each competition match to Full Time by 7pm SUNDAY. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff
21.C	The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by an Officer of the Team, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
21.D	The Registration Secretary will accept any of the following methods for receiving team sheets; scanned emails or, a photo via WhatsApp or, a text. It is the teams responsibility to ensure that all the data on the team sheets is legible so that the information is recorded accurately. ALL misconduct should be reported on your team sheet (player's names should be PRINTED). Failure to adhere to this will result in a fine in accordance with Rule 6(l)
21.E	<p>In the absence of an original, a duplicate must be provided to the Registration Secretary within 7 days of a request by an Officer of the league. In this case, the original fine will stand-there will be no reduction in fine for the supply of a duplicate team sheet. Failure to adhere to this will be dealt with; in accordance to Rule 6.l</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Any submitted incomplete team sheet will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff. Each team will be required to complete their team sheet on the FA full time website within 4 days of the match. Failure to adhere to this will incur a fine in accordance with the fines tariff. Any team that has not submitted 3 team sheets to the competition (hard copy/photo) and/or not completed their team sheet on the FA Full Time website, whether it's consecutively or in total during the playing season, will have their next fixture in the competition awarded (voided if both teams are in default) and will be fined under rule 6(l). <p>NOTE: A failure to provide a team sheet and complete Full Time for the same fixture will count as one (1) missing team sheet. Once a team has reached three (3) missing team sheets, the sanction will be imposed. This rule will then reset, and the count will start from zero (0). Another three (3) non-completed team sheets, the same sanction will apply. It is your club's responsibility to ensure that the administration of your team is done in a timely manner each week. All competition fixtures that have already been cast will be awarded (voided if both teams are in default) and costs levied.</p>
21.F	<p>All member teams must supply at least one mobile number via the Club Portal so that the FA Full Time text services can send a text message to that phone to enable your result to be recorded. Match results need to be received by 7pm on a Sunday and by 11pm for all midweek matches (including cup finals).</p> <p>Should you not receive the text message from the FA Full Time website, you must text your match result to the Results Secretary, please include your team name for easy reference. Failure to comply with any part of this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.</p>
21.G	<p>Team officials must ensure all opponents players names are clearly written on the team sheet before signing. You are signing to confirm you have checked your opponent's players PDF squad list before kick-off. If your opponent is unable to produce their players registrations on the Club Portal then those players will be ineligible to play (unless it is an emergency registration); should the whole squad list be unavailable the team unable to provide their squad list will immediately forfeit the fixture.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In the event of a dispute, the signed team sheet will be the definitive item and will nullify any appeal regarding the qualification of a player. If a team has elected to sign a team sheet as confirmation when their opposition's PDF squad list was not available, it will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff

22. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

22 A	<p>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.</p> <p>In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings shall be determined by the following criteria, in the order of priority in which they appear:</p> <p>(NB: for Regional NLS Feeder Leagues criteria 1 & 2 are mandatory; for all other Competitions they are optional):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>[Goal difference (where the goals scored against each Team shall be deducted from the goals scored by that Team and the Team with the most favourable goal difference shall be placed highest).</i> 2. <i>In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team which has scored the most goals during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.]</i> 3. In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team that has won the most matches during the Playing Season shall be placed highest. 4. In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team which has the better playing record against the other Team in their head-to-head Competition Matches during the Playing Season will be placed highest. 5. One-off fixture or play-off games as determined by the League management committee.
22 B	<p><i>Automatic promotion shall be applied for the first 2 Teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last 2 Teams in each division except as provided for below subject to the provisions of Rule 2.L.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Should one or more Teams withdraw from any one division after the Playing Season has commenced an equal number of Teams to those withdrawing in that division shall not be automatically relegated.</i> 2. <i>Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the Playing Season may be filled in any of the following ways:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>retention of otherwise relegated Team(s); or</i> b. <i>additional promotion of the next ranked Team(s) from the division below; or</i> c. <i>election.</i> 3. <i>The last Team in the lowest division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of Rule 22.B.1 above.</i> 4. <i>Save for where Rule 2(M) applies, When a senior Team is relegated to a lower division of which the reserve (or other less senior) Team of the same Club is a member, or entitled to be a member, such reserve (or other less senior) Team must accept relegation to, or retain its position in, the next lower division; and should the senior Team be relegated to the lowest division the reserve (or other less senior) Team of the same Club retires from the Competition.</i> 5. <i>Should either or both of the leading Teams in any of the divisions have its senior Team in the next higher division, promotion shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next highest Team or Teams in the division concerned.</i>
22 C	<p><i>In addition to the Team(s) automatically promoted under Rule 22.B, a maximum of one further Team shall be promoted by virtue of being the winner of a play-off match or series of matches (the "Play-Offs"). The eligibility criteria and format of the Play-Offs are as follows [].</i></p> <p><i>Note: The league does not entertain this rule as it's optional and therefore doesn't require adherence.</i></p>
22 D	<p>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.</p>

23 .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.
23.B	<p>1. In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee the appointed senior assistant referee shall take charge and a substitute assistant referee appointed by the competing Teams.</p> <p>2. 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 Competition Match.</p>
23.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.
23.D	<p><u>Regional NLS Feeder Leagues</u>: No Club shall postpone a Competition match on account of the apparent state of the ground. In the event that such circumstances prevail, Clubs should comply with procedures provided for in the document published by The FA "Recommended procedure for the guidance of Clubs and Referees in determining the suitability of grounds in adverse weather conditions". Should the ground be declared unfit it is the responsibility of the home Club to immediately advise the Competition, the Appointing Authority, the visiting Club and the Match Officials.</p> <p><u>For those leagues which are not Regional NLS Feeder Leagues</u>: 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.</p>
23.E	<p>Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the Sanctioning Authority, Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff <i>inclusive of travel expenses</i>.</p> <p>Match Officials will be paid their fees and/or expenses by the home Club before/immediately after the Competition Match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.</p>
23.F	<p>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 expenses only.</p> <p>NOTE: Match Officials should complete and submit an expense form to the competition within 7 days of the match. They shall be entitled to £10, this will be paid by the competition within 7 days of the completed expense form being received. No payment will be made outside of these parameters.</p> <p>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.</p>
23.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.
23.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.
23.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 Sanctioning Authority.
23.J	<i>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 and the time of kick-off to the (Registration) Secretary within two days of the Competition Match.</i>
23.K	<i>Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.</i>
23.L	<i>Match Officials shall comply with the provisions of any initiatives of The FA and/or Sanctioning Authority adopted by the Competition</i>

23.	<p>The Management Committee may, if considered appropriate, or if requested to by either of the competing teams, appoint Assistant Referees to any match. When appointing assistants, the Referees secretary shall advise the two Clubs in writing, at least 48 hours before the match, of his reason(s)/justification for placing assistants on their match. A request by one club for Assistants to be appointed will be sufficient to place 2 additional officials on a match (if available), irrespective of the view of the opponents.</p> <p>For all League matches, all officials are to be paid by the AWAY team and the cost of ONE Assistant is reclaimed from the home team.</p> <p>In circumstances where the Management Committee are unable to provide neutral Assistant Referees to any fixture, clubs must provide their own Assistant to aid the Match Referee, if the clubs provides such assistance, this MUST be accepted by the Match Referee and cannot be declined (unless the person provided is under suspension). If the Referee does not accept such assistance, then the club will have the right to refuse to play the fixture and must report such circumstances to the League Secretary and Fixtures Secretary within 24hrs.</p>
23.N	<p>The fee for the Match Officials shall be equal to that published by the London Football Association for the Sunday Junior Cup at the time of the League AGM.</p> <p>Cup match fees are split equally by both teams and is the responsibility of the HOME team to ensure payment is made.</p> <p>Referee appointed by the Management Committee = £45 Assistant Referees appointed by the Management Committee or requested by team(s) = £30 For "double-headers" Referee: £65, Assistant Referee: = £40</p> <p>Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff (Refer to Rule 23 E).</p>
23.O	<p>A Referee MUST report all cautions and/or sending offs to the appropriate County Association within the statutory periods. Any Referee failing to do so will be reported to their County of Affiliation for appropriate action.</p>
23.P	<p>A Referee MUST submit a report to the Referee's Secretary if approached by any team official to withhold misconduct information from the County Association or League.</p>
23.Q	<p>When marking a referee, emphasis should be given to the complete performance, not one or two isolated or controversial incidents, even if you feel you lost the game because of a particular decision. Where marks are seriously inconsistent between two teams in the same match, the Referee's Secretary may call the teams to explain their marking(s). Remember – win with dignity, lose with grace and always display a sporting attitude.</p>
23.R	<p>If a Team marks a referee 60 or less, a written report of explanation for the low mark, either by letter or email, must be sent to the Referee's Secretary and Assistant Referee Secretary, within 4 days of the match. Failing to submit this report will be deemed as failing to deal with League business. Refer to Rule 6(I)</p>
23.S	<p>All Referees must acknowledge appointments to the Home Team Secretary upon receipt, or by the latest Wednesday 9pm prior to the game. This can be done, if possible, by email. Referees should notify the Referees Secretary by Thursday midday prior to the game, if they have NOT been contacted by the Home team, however the Referee should attempt to contact the home team to confirm match details and to report such occurrence. In such circumstances, the referee may be withdrawn and relocated to another fixture.</p>