



# East Berks Football Alliance

Founded 1992

*(EBFA - Our Kids - Their Dreams)*

## EBFA Rules and Regulations

### 2023-2024

League Website

[www.eastberksfa.com](http://www.eastberksfa.com)

League Administration Website

[www.gotfootball.co.uk](http://www.gotfootball.co.uk)

EBFA AGM To Be Approved on 18-Jul-23 , Berks & Bucks County FA Approved 25-Jul-23

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# About East Berks Football Alliance

East Berks Football Alliance (EBFA) is a Saturday/Sunday Football League for age groups U7 & U8 playing 5v5 Mini-Soccer football, U9 & U10 playing 7v7 Mini-Soccer football, U11 & U12 Youth playing 9v9 football and age groups U13 to U21 playing 11v11 Youth football.

Teams are organised into age groups and Sections/Divisions and all Teams play Home and Away fixtures with the Home Team providing the pitch and organising the Referee. The Home Team is responsible for the cost of the pitch and the cost of the Referee is shared between both Teams.

For age groups U12 and upwards all Teams are entered into a League Trophy Event Competition which is conducted on a knockout basis. U7-U11 Teams play in a multi format Trophy Event Competition.

At the end of the season the Division Champion and Runner up Teams for age groups from U12 upwards receive individual players mementoes and Division Champion receive a Championship Trophy..

Wherever possible Teams are streamed into Sections and Divisions of appropriate experience and East Berks Football Alliance (EBFA) does not operate a set promotion and relegation policy. Year on year Teams are allocated to Divisions based on the relative strength of Teams entered for the new season and not solely based on a Team's performance in a previous season.

The League website is located at [www.eastberksfa.com](http://www.eastberksfa.com)

The League administration website is located at [www.GotFootball.co.uk](http://www.GotFootball.co.uk)

The League results service is located at [www.GotFootball.co.uk](http://www.GotFootball.co.uk)

## Management Committee

The East Berks Football Alliance (EBFA) Management Committee organises Teams into age groups and Divisions.

A Team Manager from each Division is appointed as Divisional Secretary to that Division.

The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and other Officers of the League including Child Welfare Officer and Referee's Secretary together with the Divisional Secretaries comprise the Management Committee which shall meet once per month during the season to conduct the business of the League.

The business of the League ranges from managing the individual Divisions, upholding the Rules of the League, organising Trophy Event Finals, purchasing trophies, organising courses and participating in Sub-committees and so on.

It is not the responsibility of the Management Committee to resolve disputes between Clubs and/or Teams.

The East Berks Football Alliance (EBFA) is a Membership Association such that the League is run by its members and on behalf of its members. Any decision of the League is by definition a decision of the members. Any person wishing to contribute to the running of the League should contact the Chairman or Secretary. All offers of help are welcome and no one has been refused yet.

## History of the Association

In the summer of 1992 our national football squad had performed abysmally. The FA and the press called for a drastic review of coaching strategies for youngsters if England was to produce stars of the future. Following this debate letters were sent out to all Clubs in the Bracknell area inviting them to take part in a 7-a-side League. Eight Teams at the under 8 level joined for the 1992/93 season.

Once Managers, players and parents had sampled this break from tradition, the virtues of the small-sided game were clear to see, and the Development of the East Berks Mini-Soccer 7-a-side Association was swift.

In 1993 the under 9s were included and 1994 saw the introduction of under 7s. By 1995 there were enough Teams for two Divisions of under 9s, and by 1996 the under 8s also had two Divisions, and the under 10s was formed. 1997 saw the formation of the under 11s.

In 2002 many 11-a-side Teams had to travel outside of the county to play League football so the East Berks Youth Football Association was formed to offer 11-a-side football in the local area.

In 2006 the two (2) Leagues combined to become East Berks Youth Football League with an objective to offer a natural progression for Saturday morning football in 7-a-side and 11-a-side formats with age groups from U7 to U18.

From very small beginnings with just 8 Teams to an Association with 92 Clubs and 586 Teams in 38 Sections and Divisions in 2011. Over 290 matches played every Saturday morning in the local area and the involvement of approximately 8,300 players together with their parents and grandparents and brothers and sisters.

In 2007/8 the League started its first Girls Division at U10s, with 7 Teams participating. The result is football being provided for an even larger part of our community.

In the Summer of 2009 East Berks Youth Football League (EBYFL) was the first League in the County to be awarded the status of FA Charter Standard League.

In early 2010 East Berks Youth Football League (EBYFL) held its first ever FA Charter Standard League Training and Development Day which was attended by over 150 coaches and was judged a huge success.

At the end of the 2009-2010 season East Berks Youth Football League (EBYFL) was awarded the national FA Respect and Fair Play Award which was presented at the FA Cup Final by HRH Prince William.

At the start of the 2012/13 season the League introduces 5v5 format for U7s and 9v9 format for U11 and U12 age groups

2013/14 season saw the 5v5 format extended to U8s, the introduction of U21 11v11 format playing on a Sunday afternoon and the renaming of East Berks Youth Football League (EBYFL) to East Berks Football Alliance (EBFA).

2014/15 season saw the introduction of trophy events for the U7s and U8s in the 5v5 format.

2019/20 EBFA scheduled 31 trophy event finals for 869 teams with 11,485 registered players. However, COVID-19 cut the season short, with the English Football Association concluding the season in March 2020.

2022/23 EBFA scheduled 31 trophy event finals for 922 teams with 12,529 registered players. Presentation day saw 110 teams invited to collect U12 to U18 Champions and Runners Up awards and U7 to U18 Respect awards. However, the Death of Our Queen Elizabeth in September 2022 and a winter of rainouts over 8 weekend made the conclusion of the season a mammoth task for the Clubs/Teams and Management Committee.

## 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 East Berks Football Alliance League.

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

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

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

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

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

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

“GotFootball” the web portal (website) used by the League to administer the League. Used for GotFootball Player Registrations, Fixtures and Results service.

“GotFootball Player Registration System” (GF-PRS) is used as the system for registering a player for a team on the GotFootball web portal (website) which is used by the League and to ensure the League meets its legal obligations as regards legal name, Date of Birth (DOB) and International Clearance (ITC) of players, to enable it to provide Player Reg Cards and Team sheets with trophy event exclusion of tied players.

“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.

“Open Aged Football” means those participating at age under 21s.

“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, also referred to as the FA Player Registration System (FA-PRS) by the League.

“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 and Bucks County Football Association Limited].

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

“Season” means the period of time between an AGM and the subsequent AGM.

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

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

“Team” means a team affiliated to a Club

“Team Sheet” means a form provided by the Competition (Game Sheet on the GotFootball System), on which the names of the registered Players taking part in a Competition Match.

“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) The Competition will be known as East Berks Football Alliance. The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist, or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall thereupon automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.
- (B) This Competition shall consist of not more than two hundred and fifty (250) Clubs approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

The Competition shall provide:

### Saturday Football

- Mini-Soccer - 5v5 Football (5-a-side) for boys and girls players who have attained the age of 6 but not the age of 8 as at midnight on 31st August in a playing season. Under 7 to Under 8.
- Mini-Soccer - 7v7 Football (7-a-side) for boys and girls players who have attained the age of 8 but not the age of 10 as at midnight on 31st August in a playing season. Under 9 to Under 10.
- Youth - 9v9 Football (9-a-side) for boys and girls players who have attained the age of 9 but not the age of 12 as at midnight on 31st August. Under 11 to Under 12.
- Youth - 11v11 Football (11-a-side) for boys and girls players who have attained the age of 12 but not the age of 16 as at midnight on 31st August. Under 13 to Under 16.
- Youth - 11v11 Football (11-a-side) for boy players who have attained the age of 15 but not the age of 18 as at midnight on 31st August.

### Sunday Football

- U21 - 11v11 Football (11-a-side) for male players who have attained the age of 16 but not the age of 21 as at midnight on 31st August.

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

Players who have attained the age of 18 as at midnight 31st August in a playing season shall play in single sex Teams, in single sex Competitions as per FA Rules.

- (C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be within twenty (20) miles of the Bracknell Town Square. Clubs outside this radius may apply for entry but shall be subject to acceptance at the Annual General Meeting.
- (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 seven (7).
- (F) The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules for Youth Competitions (the "Standard Code") determined by The FA from time to time. In the event of any omissions from the Standard Code then the requirements of the Standard Code shall be deemed to apply to the Competition.
- (G) All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority and must have a constitution approved by the Sanctioning Authority. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

### (H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

- I. The Competition and each Club must be committed to promoting inclusivity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination and should abide and adhere to The FA Equality Policy and any legislative requirements (to include those contained in the Equality Act 2010).
- II. This Competition and each Club must make every effort to promote equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and

opportunities for all members of the community, irrespective of age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability or otherwise.

III. Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.

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

As an FA England Football Accredited League this Competition requires all its Clubs to achieved FA England Football Accreditation. The League Management Committee may expel any Club that has failed to achieve FA England Football Accreditation or retain FA England Football Accreditation. New Member Clubs have one (1) year to achieve the FA England Football Accreditation award. The League has the right to refuse membership to a Club or continue a Club's membership if a Club fails to demonstrate commitment to achieving and/or retaining the FA England Football Accreditation.

This Competition and its Clubs shall recognise that everyone in football has a collective responsibility to create a fair, safe and enjoyable environment in which the game can take place. A Respect League values the contribution of match Officials, players and spectators and ensures that they are treated with 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.

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

(K) Clubs shall not enter any of their Teams playing at a particular age group in the Competition in any other competition (with the exception of FA and County FA Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(L) At the AGM or a SGM called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the constitution of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this Rule shall take precedence over Rule Twenty Two (22).

(M) Except for FA and Parent County FA Competitions in the team's compatible format, any Club entering Teams in the Competition shall not enter the same Team in any other Competition or any Tournament Competition during the East Berks Football Alliance season, without first obtaining written permission from the East Berks Football Alliance Competition Chair/Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

### 3 CLUB NAME

Any Club wishing to change a team's name after 1st July each year 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. Reprints of any Player Registration cards, as a result of the team's name change, will be charged in accordance with the Fees Tariff.

### 4 ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

(A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition shall be made via the League's GotFootball System not later than 31st May in each year and Clubs shall be invoiced for the Team Entry Fee after the AGM.

£63.00 for each Mini-Soccer 5v5 Football Team

£83.00 for each Mini-Soccer 7v7 Football Team

£95.00 }for each Youth 9v9 Football Team

£130.00 for each Youth 11v11 Football Team and £130.00 for U21 each 11v11 Football Team.

For 2023/24 only, Clubs with no debts on their EBFA accounts at AGM, will be receive a one-off 25% discount on the revised team fees for their 23/24 Club teams, if those teams played for their clubs in EBFA 22/23 season and are entered by their same Club for 23/24 season.

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

Player registration fees for players registered are as per fees Tariff and will be invoice by the Competition to the Clubs.

Each Club shall be controlled by at least two (2) adults one (1) of whom shall be contactable by email and telephone and shall be responsible to the League for all matters regarding the Club. This person, who shall be designated "Club Secretary", shall be the person indicated on the County Affiliation Form "A" and shall be responsible for all communications with the League.

Each Club shall have an e-mail contact address (unless a dispensation has been given by the Management Committee). Each Team that is registered for the League shall have a "Team Contact " who is the person responsible for the day to day administration of the Team and shall also be contactable by telephone and email and a "Team Manager" who is the person responsible on the match day for the Team and shall also be contactable by mobile and email.

- (B) The annual subscription shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club/Team (where a Club has more than one Team in membership of the Competition) and shall be payable on or before 1st August in each year.
- (C) A Deposit of £0 shall be payable in accordance with the Fees Tariff per Club/Team (where a Club provides more than one Team in membership of the Competition) and shall be payable on or before 1st August in each year. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription and Deposit (if required) have been paid.
- (E) If requested by the Competition, Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 1st August of its Sanctioning Authority affiliation number for the forthcoming Playing Season. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its Officers, its FA Charter Standard Status 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 Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and at least 1 member per age group who shall all be elected at the AGM.
- (B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination provided that the Officer notifies the Secretary in writing not later than 5th May in each year.

All other candidates for election as Officers of the Competition or members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the secretaries of two Clubs, not later than 1<sup>st</sup> June in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the AGM.

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

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

- (D) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.
- (E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their Officers and sent to the Secretary.

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

## 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 FA or Affiliated Association.
- (B) Subject to the permission of the Sanctioning Authority having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each Season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any club which may have withdrawn during the Season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the Season.
- (C) Each member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee meetings and have one vote thereat, but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such member or to the Club so represented or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall also apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).

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

(D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce these Rules and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition. Any action by the Competition must be taken within Twenty-Eight (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 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

No Participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

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

- (E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule seven (7). Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within seven (7) days.
- (F) Three (3) of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Management Committee or any sub-committee thereof.
- (G) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill, in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.
- (H) A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Management Committee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Subject to a Club's right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7 below, all fines and charges must be paid within 14 days of the date of notification of the decision.  
Any Club failing to do so will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within a further 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.
- (J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or Competition Match may have any reasonable expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.
- (K) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the AGM or SGM called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Playing Season.
- (L) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.

## 7 PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

- (A)
  - (i) All questions of eligibility, qualification of Players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Management

Committee or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.

- (ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the Competition Match.
  - (iii) The Team Officials shall be held responsible for the behavior of players, supporters and any other persons involved with the fixture. Any dispute or complaint shall be forwarded to the League Secretary as per this Rule.
- (B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within three (3) days (excluding Sundays) of the Competition Match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of their Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.
- (C) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum in accordance with the Fees Tariff. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.
- (D) All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least seven (7) days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.
- (i) All parties must have received seven (7) days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.
  - (ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should forward a deposit of £30 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 fourteen (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.
- (G) No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an AGM or SGM unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.
- (H) All protests shall be dealt with by a Sub-committee consisting of a minimum of three (3) Officers of the League. The Secretary or their delegate shall act as Secretary to the Sub-committee, none of whom shall have any association with the Club involved.

## 8 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- (A) The AGM shall be held not later than 31st July in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least twelve (12) members are present and entitled to vote: -
- i. To receive and confirm the minutes of the preceding AGM.
  - ii. To receive and adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts.
  - iii. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies.
  - iv. Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.
  - v. Election of Officers of the Competition and the Management Committee members.
  - vi. Appointment of auditors/verifier.
  - vii. Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule fourteen (14)).

- viii. Fix the date for the commencement of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
  - ix. Fix the date for the end of the Playing Season.
  - x. Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.
- (B) A copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet, statement of accounts and agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting together with any proposed Rule changes.
- (C) A signed copy of the duly audited/verified balance sheet and statement of accounts shall be sent to the Sanctioning Authority within fourteen (14) days of its adoption by the AGM.
- (D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an AGM. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Fourteen (14) days' notice shall be given of any AGM.
- (E) Clubs who have withdrawn their membership of the Competition during the Playing Season being concluded or who are not continuing membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the Season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule twelve (12).
- (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 Club.
- (H) Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (I) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an AGM, but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club (See Rule 8.G).
- (J) Where a Competition is an incorporated entity, the Officers of the Competition shall ensure that the Articles of Association of the Competition are consistent with the requirements of these Rules.

## 9 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- (A) Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a SGM.
- (B) The Management Committee may call a SGM at any time.
- (C) At least seven (7) days' notice shall be given of a meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting.
- (D) Each Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all SGMs. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.
- (E) Any Club failing to be represented at a SGM shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (F) Officers of the Competition and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all SGMs. but cannot also cast a vote on behalf of a club (see Rule 9.D).

## 10 AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

Each Club shall complete their application of the GotFootball system and by entering Teams into the Competition event and paying the entry fee invoice shall have agreed that:

“Rules and Regulations of the Eats Berks Football Alliance Competition can be downloaded from the Competition website and that they hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7.”

Any alteration of the Chairman and/or Secretary shall be notified to the County Football Association(s) to which the Club is affiliated. Additionally, any alteration of the Chairman, Secretary, Child Welfare Officer and/or Treasurer shall be notified to the Secretary of the Competition via the GotFootball System.

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

## 11 CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

- (A) Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition must do so at least seven (7) days before the AGM. This does not apply to a Club moving in accordance with Rule 22(B). Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (B) The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season, including but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (C) Notwithstanding the powers of the Management Committee pursuant to Rule 6(I), in the event of a Club failing to discharge all its financial obligations to the Competition in excess of £50, the Management Committee shall be empowered to refer the debt under The FA Football Debt Recovery provisions.
- (D) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its Teams from the Competition after the Annual General Meeting for the following Season. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable to its Team fee and to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff and shall also be liable for its share of any call which shall be made under Rule 6(D).
- (E) The Membership for the coming season having been decided at a Special General Meeting for that purpose or at the AGM, held not later than 30th June, the Competition shall have the right, irrespective of other provisions in this Rule, to refuse to permit a Club to withdraw its Team(s) in order to join another Competition and may hold the Club to its engagements.

## 12 EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAM. MISCONDUCT OF CLUBS, OFFICERS, PLAYERS, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

## 13 TROPHY

- (A) "Not Adopted"
- (B) At the close of each Competition awards shall be made to the winners and runners-up.
- (C) Club/Team shall attend the Competition Presentation Event, unless a satisfactory reason has been given. Failure to comply shall result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## 14 ALTERATIONS TO RULES

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

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 28<sup>th</sup> February in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by 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 AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if a majority of those present, entitled to vote and voting are in favour.

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

## 15 FINANCE

- (A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
- (B) All expenditure in excess of £15,000 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.
- (C) The financial year of the Competition will end on 31<sup>st</sup> May.
- (D) The books, 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

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

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

## 17 DISSOLUTION

- (A) Dissolution of the Competition shall be by resolution approved at a SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.
- (B) In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.
- (C) The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:
  - i. Any surplus assets, save for a trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The Football Association Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the Sanctioning Authority.
  - ii. If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the Sanctioning Authority may decide.

# MATCH RELATED RULES

## 18 QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

### [18-A] Player Registration Systems (FA Player Registration System (FA-PRS) & GotFootball Player Registration System (GF-PRS))

A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has: -

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

To enable the competition to approve the player registration on the FA Player Registration System (FA-PRS), the player must have completed the player registration on the GotFootball Player Registration System (GF-PRS), which means the Club has fully and correctly completed a Competition GotFootball player registration record, digitally countersigned by their guardian ONLY via the GotFootball League Parent Guardian Agreement Form (LPGAF) and who then has been registered with the Registrations Secretary three (3) days prior to the players proposed first fixture date.

Once the GF-PRS has been completed and before Player Reg Card is issued, the competition will access the FA-PRS and check that the player's name matches on the team in FA-PRS and Club approval has been requested.



The competition does not check Address, ITC status, Photo on the FA-PRS, as the league audit procedures on GF-PRS ensure these have been verified internally.

Completed player registration ID is provided to the Club/Team, after the season starts, by Post to the Manager. A Player remains ineligible to play in the Competition until the FA-PRS and GF-PRS processes above has been complied with and the Player appears digitally on the EBFA GotFootball Team Sheet and the Manager has a physical EBFA Player Reg ID Card or a temporary EBFA eCard.

For the avoidance of doubt merely submitting the player's registration details onto the system and the parent / guardian completing the League Parent Guardian Agreement Form is not deemed as completing the process. Any player who plays in any match in this competition in such circumstances will be deemed as "unregistered or ineligible" The Player's name on both the FA-PSR and GF-PRS must be exactly as it appears on the Player's Proof of Birth Documentation (Birth Certificate or Passport). The GF-PRS Player's Photo must comply with compile to Appendix P – Player ID Registration Photo Specification. The Club/Team shall on the reverse of the GF-PRS player registration ID Card incorporate any known serious medical conditions of the Player and emergency contact details of the Player's parents or guardians.

These player registration ID cards shall be available at matches and training events the Player attends within the Management of the Club or Competition. A player's proof of age and nationality document shall be a scan of a birth certificate, passport or other official document issued by a Government Agency attesting to the player's date of birth and place of birth.

Note: documents that show Place of Birth as United Kingdom (UK)/(GBR) are not accepted as place of birth verification, birth certificates will be required.

There is no match day signing procedure – all registrations shall be approved through the FA-PRS and GF-PRS procedures. Players names may be displayed on the public pages of the League's Result website. Players under Court or Council Protection Orders shall have their display name redacted.

Player registration cards, for players registered by 31-Jul, shall be collected by the Clubs at the Pre-season General Meeting. After the Pre-season General Meeting player registration cards are issued as eCards (Valid for 10 days) while the physical player registration card is posted to the Manager's Address, as provided on the GotFootball system.

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

## [18-B] Contract Players / No of Players Registered 7 day before Season Start

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

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

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

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

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

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

## [18-C] Player Age Groups, Age Bands, Maximum Squad Sizes

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

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

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

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

Age on 31 August 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	30 x 20	27.45 x 18.30	40 x 30	36.30 x 27.45	<del>12 x 6</del> 8x4 in EBFA	3
	Under 8	5v5	30 x 20	27.45 x 18.30	40 x 30	36.30 x 27.45	<del>12 x 6</del> 8x4 in EBFA	3
7	Under 8	5v5	30 x 20	27.45 x 18.30	40 x 30	36.30 x 27.45	12 x 6	3
	Under 9	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.90 x 36.60	12 x 6	3
8	Under 9	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.90 x 36.60	12 x 6	3
	Under 10	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.90 x 36.60	12 x 6	3
9	Under 10	7v7	50 x 30	45.75 x 27.45	60 x 40	54.90 x 36.60	12 x 6	3
	Under 11	9v9	70 x 40	64.00 x 36.60	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
10	Under 11	9v9	70 x 40	64.00 x 36.60	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
	Under 12	9v9	70 x 40	64.00 x 36.60	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
11	Under 12	9v9	70 x 40	64.00 x 36.60	80 x 50	73.15 x 45.75	16 x 7	4
	Under 13	11v11	90 x 50	82.30 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.90	21 x 7	4
12	Under 13	11v11	90 x 50	82.30 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.90	21 x 7	4
	Under 14	11v11	90 x 50	82.30 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.90	21 x 7	4
13	Under 14	11v11	90 x 50	82.30 x 45.75	100 x 60	91.44 x 54.90	21 x 7	4
	Under 15	11v11	90 x 50	82.30 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64.00	24 x 8	5
14	Under 15	11v11	90 x 50	82.30 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64.00	24 x 8	5
	Under 16	11v11	90 x 50	82.30 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64.00	24 x 8	5
15	Under 16	11v11	90 x 50	82.30 x 45.75	110 x 70	100.58 x 64.00	24 x 8	5
	Under 17	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5
	Under 18	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5
16	Under 17	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5
	Under 18	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5
	Open Age	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5
17	Under 18	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5
	Open Age U21	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5
18-20	Open Age U21	11v11	100 x 50	91.44 x 45.75	130 x 100	118.87 x 91.44	24 x 8	5

(i) Appendix M details the Age Bands for Player Registrations in 2023/24.

Mini-Soccer – 5v5 Football Age limits shall be:

Under 7                      Over 6 but Under 7 as at Midnight 31<sup>st</sup> August <sup>β</sup>  
Under 8                      Over 6 but Under 8 as at Midnight 31<sup>st</sup> August

<sup>β</sup> As soon as children reaches the age of 6 they can be registered to play football at U7s. However, children attaining the age of 6 during the playing season (i.e. after 31 August) may not play up an age group until the following season. i.e. They can only play at U7s only when they reach 6 during the season.

Mini-Soccer – 7v7 Football Age limits shall be:

Under 9                      Over 7 but Under 9 as at Midnight 31<sup>st</sup> August

Under 10                      Over 8 but Under 10 as at Midnight 31<sup>st</sup> August

Youth – 9v9 Football Age limits shall be:

Under 11                      Over 9 but Under 11 as at Midnight 31<sup>st</sup> August  
Under 12                      Over 10 but Under 12 as at Midnight 31<sup>st</sup> August

Youth – 11v11 Football Age limits shall be:

Under 13                      Over 11 but Under 13 as at Midnight 31<sup>st</sup> August  
Under 14                      Over 12 but Under 14 as at Midnight 31<sup>st</sup> August  
Under 15                      Over 13 but Under 15 as at Midnight 31<sup>st</sup> August  
Under 16                      Over 14 but Under 16 as at Midnight 31<sup>st</sup> August  
Under 17                      Over 15 but Under 17 as at Midnight 31<sup>st</sup> August  
Under 18                      Over 15 but Under 18 as at Midnight 31<sup>st</sup> August

U21 – 11v11 Football Age limits shall be:

Under 21                      Over 16 but Under 21 as at Midnight 31<sup>st</sup> August

(ii) The maximum numbers of registered players are:

For Under 7 Teams, they may comprise of both boys and girls and the maximum number of players to be registered per Team is nine (9).

Under 8 Teams they may comprise of both boys and girls and the maximum number of players to be registered per Team is nine (9).

For Under 9 and Under 10 Teams, they may comprise of both boys and girls and the maximum number of players to be registered per Team is twelve (12).

For Under 11 Teams, they may comprise of both boys and girls and the maximum number of players to be registered per Team is fifteen (15).

For Under 12 Teams, they may comprise of both boys and girls and the maximum number of players to be registered per Team is fifteen (15).

For Under 13 to Under 16 Teams, they may comprise boys and girls and the maximum number of players to be registered per Team is twenty (20).

For Under 17 to Under 18 Teams, they may comprise boys and girls and the maximum number of players to be registered per Team is twenty-two (22).

For Under 21 Teams, they may comprise boys only and the maximum number of players to be registered per Team is thirty (30).

## [18-D] Player Registration, Transfers and De-Registration Fees

A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff shall be paid by each Club/Team for each Player registered, if applicable. Player Registration Fees including transfer & de-registration fees will be invoiced to Clubs periodically throughout the season. Failure to pay the Invoice within 14 days of issue may result in the Player Registration to which it relates being cancelled. Any player registration cancelled in such circumstances will effectively mean that the player WILL NOT be permitted to play in ANY competition match until such time as the fee and any associated fine has been paid and the Registration Secretary has re-approved the Registration.

## [18-E] Player Registration Disputes

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/Team 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/Team within a Club provided that:

- a. "Not Adopted";
- b. "Not Adopted"; or
- c. The male player of such an age that they can register for an U17 or U18 team on a Saturday and an U21 team on a Sunday in a different Club team or different team in the same Club which play on Sunday.

And the Player meets the requirements in Rule 18(C).

## [18-F] Player Registration Breaches

It shall be a breach of these Rules for a Player to: -

- (i) Play for more than one Team in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred U7 to U18s.
- (ii) Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season, except if the provisions set out in Rule 18 (E)(iii) apply, or where the Competition adopts rule 18-P
- (iii) Submit a signed registration form or submit a registration through the FA Player Registration System (FA-PRS) and/or GotFootball Player Registration System (GF-PRS) for registration that the Player had willfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

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

## [18-G] Management Committee Player Registration Powers

- (i) The Management Committee shall have the power to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rule 18(G)(ii) and (iii) below.
- (ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player, the exercise of such power being without prejudice to the Management Committee's ability to fine a Club at its discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) that has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).
- (iii) The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. Where the Management Committee does not have enough information to enable it to make a decision pursuant to the above power, it may apply, in its absolute discretion, to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA for further information.
- (iv) Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in this Competition.
- (v) For a Player who has previously had a registration removed in accordance with Rule 18(G)(iii) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a probationary period of 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 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 one hundred and twelve (112) days' suspension, or ten (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.)

## [18-H] Player Registration Transfers & De-Registrations

Subject to compliance with FA Rule 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. The transfer fee as set out in the Fees Tariff Fees will be invoiced to the Club by the Competition. 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 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 Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club after receipt of such transfer.

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

When a Club wishes to register a player, who is already registered with another team in their Club, it shall submit a transfer form (in a format as determined by the Competition) to the Competition. The transfer fee as set out in the Fees Tariff Fees will be invoiced to the Club by the Competition.

No player shall be allowed more than three (3) transfers in anyone (1) season, except in exceptional circumstances by written permission of the Secretary, as approved by the Management Committee.

A player desiring not to play for their Team, or a Team not wishing to use the services of a player again may submit a notice of de-registration together with the player's Registration Card to the relevant Player Registration Secretary accompanied by a de-registration fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff. In either case, it is the duty of parties to inform the other of the action taken and the date of submitting the notice. A player being de-registered shall not play for their relinquishing Team on or after the date when de-registration notice was posted. Any Team requiring official notice of de-registration from the Player Registration Secretary shall enclose a stamped addressed envelope for its return. Players registered by the league for the current season that are removed by the Club/Team from the team on GotFootball, will be considered as de-registered and the de-registration fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff will apply. Fees will be invoiced to the Club by the Competition.

No de-registered player may re-register after 11pm on 31st March.

A notice of de-registration submitted by a Team shall be signed by Club Chairman or Club Secretary and Team Manager. U7 to U11 Teams may only de-register a maximum of three (3) players per season. U12 to U16 Teams may only de-register a maximum of four (4) players per season. U17 to U21 Teams may only de-register a maximum of five (5) players per season.

### [18-I] Player Registration Window

A Player may not be registered for a Club/Team nor transferred to another Club/Team in the Competition after 31st March @ 11pm except by special permission of the Management Committee.

### [18-J] Record of Player Match Participation & Team Name Restrictions

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

In the event a Club has more than one Team in an age group, each Team must be clearly identifiable but not designated 'A' or 'B' or 1st or 2nd. In such cases, Players will be registered for one Team only.

### [18-K] GotFootball Record of Player Registration

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

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

### [18-L] Eligibility to Play in Matches

A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 12(A)) and Trophy Event Semi Finals and Trophy Event Finals unless the Player has played 2 league games for that Team in this Competition in the current Playing Season or been registered for at least 14 days prior to such a game.

### [18-M] "Not Adopted"

"Not Adopted".

### [18-N] Ineligible Players

- (i) Subject to Rule 18(N)(ii), any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition Match or Matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Competition Match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of twelve (12) points, and have levied upon it a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- (ii) The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule 18(N)(i) only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.
- (iii) Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with Rule 18(N)(i) above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion:
  - a. Award the points available in the Competition Match in question to the opponents, subject to the Competition Match not being ordered to be replayed; or
  - b. Levy penalty points against the Club in default; and/or
  - c. Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as are decided by the Management Committee).

### [18-O] Players in Full-Time Secondary Education

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

- (i) Priority must be given at all times to the activities of schools and school organisations activities. Failure to comply

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

- (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with their head teacher (except for Sunday league competitions).
- (iii) A child under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31 August in the relevant Playing Season, shall not be permitted to play in a Competition Match during that Playing Season where any other Player is older or younger than that child by two years or more.

### [18-P] Clubs Wishing to Cancel a Player's Registration

"Not Adopted"; The Competition uses Player De-registration procedures as set out in 18-H

### [18-Q] Team/Game Sheets & Player ID Card Verification

- (i) The Team sheet is part of the player identification and is used to make sure a team is not fielding ineligible players. This is especially important in all age groups Section and Divisions and Trophy Event competitions. The team manager will download at least 1 copy of their EBFA Team Sheet (Game Sheet in GotFootball) for the match, which digitally list the players in the team squad authorised to be selected for the specific fixture.

The production, security, and accuracy of the EBFA GotFootball Team sheet is the responsibility of the club/team to which the player is registered. They should be kept in a condition suitable for their purpose and at every match accurately reflect the particular playing squad of that team on that day. The Team Sheet should be reproduced to reflect a new player registration, a player transferred in or out or the de-registration of a player.

- (ii) The team manager must ensure that the Team Sheet is complete and includes any late player registrations, transfers or de-registrations and has not been digitally altered. The team sheet will include photos of the players.

Players starting the fixture should be marked with a tick in the correct column, and S for Substitute and any players on the team sheet that are not participating in this fixture should be crossed through completely.

Only players named on the team sheet shall be allowed to play in that match. The Referee and opposition manager must be informed of any player or players that may be arriving late. However, any player arriving more than 15 minutes after the commencement of the game shall not be eligible to take part in that match in any capacity i.e. as a player or substitute. And, no game shall be held up for the arrival of a late player or players.

Before the late player enters the field of play, the player should present their player registration card to the opposition manager, failure to do so will make the player ineligible to play in the match. Before the player is substituted onto the field of play, the referee must be reminded of the late arrival, so the referee can check the player equipment before they participate in the match.

- (iii) Prior to the commencement of the match the Team's EBFA Team Sheet must be presented to the Referee Match Official so they can extract the team's player names and shirt numbers for their officiating duties and return the team sheet to the team manager . (Alternatively, the Team can present the match official with copy of the EBFA Team Sheet)
- (iv) After the Referee has returned the team sheets and prior to the kick-off of a fixture, the Teams must exchange Team Sheets and must perform the Player Registration Cards verification procedure (Appendix C - Procedure for Verification of Player Registration Identity Cards ) in order that the EBFA Player ID Cards must be inspected by the Team Manager from the opposing Team against the team sheet .

The only handwritten entries on the team sheets are for Scores, Signatures, tick or S for players participating in the fixture, players crossed out as they are not participating in the fixture and number of goals scored by a player.

At the end of the Procedure for Verification of Player Registration Identity Cards, both team manager should sign the team sheet and return the Team sheet to the other team's manager.

- (v) At the end of the fixture both managers shall complete their Teams sheets by adding scores, goals, sin bins, yellow and red cards and getting the Referee to sign the team sheet and then signing the team sheet themselves.

Team sheet are submitted to the competition as an upload as part of the Google Forms Team Match/Respect Report procedure in reporting results Rule 21 (B).

Failure to comply with this rule will result in a fine in accordance with the fines tariff.

### [18-R] Management Committee Inspection of Team/Game Sheets

Upon request by a Management Committee Official, at or after the match, all EBFA Team Sheets relevant to a fixture shall be made available for inspection by a member of the League Management Committee. Any Team that fails to produce an EBFA Team Sheet, without very good cause, shall be dealt with by the Management Committee and be liable to a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff

## [18-S] Team Sheet and/or Player Reg ID Cards “Not Available” Procedure

In the event that the EBFA Team Sheet (Game Sheet in GotFootball) and/or the Player Reg ID Cards for the match are not available

The following process must be strictly followed:

- (i) Using the EBFA Missing Player Reg ID Card form or a piece of A4 paper, in the presence of the opposing team Manager.
- (ii) Each player, including all substitutes, MUST print their shirt number, own name, fill in their date of birth and sign the form.
- (iii) No player information can be completed before or during the witnessing of this by anyone other than the player(s).
- (iv) The Form MUST then be fully completed by both Team’s Manager.
- (v) The Manger who has forgotten their Team Sheet and/or Player Reg ID Cards, must then take a team photo and send a copy of the team photo to their EBFA Div Secretary and the EBAF Player Registration Secretary.
- (vi) The OPPOSING Team’s Manager will then receive the form and show the form, prior to the match kick off, to the Referee Match Official, who can extract the team’s player names and shirt numbers for their officiating duties.
- (vii) After the match, an image of the Form or the Form MUST be sent by the OPPOSING team to their Divisional Secretary within THREE (3) days of the date of the match, excluding Sunday.
- (viii) The Manager who forgot their Team Sheet must complete one when they return home and upload to the Team sheet are submitted to the competition as an upload as part of the Google Forms Team Match/Respect Report procedure in reporting results Rule 21 (B). The

A team that has failed to produce the EBFA Team Sheet and fails or refuses to complete the EBFA Missing Player Reg ID Card Form, shall be treated as serious misconduct and liable to fine in accordance with the fines tariff and otherwise dealt with as the management committee may decide, which shall include forfeiting the match.

## 19 CLUB COLOURS, CLUB NAME

### [19-A] Club Colours and Shirt Numbers

Every Team must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary, on the GotFootball system, by 1st August, who shall decide as to their suitability.

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

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

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

Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeeper jersey) at least seven (7) days before the Competition Match. If, in the opinion of the referee, two Teams have the same or similar colours, the home Team shall make the change. Should a Team delay the scheduled time of kick-off for a Competition Match by not having a change of colours they will be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Shirts must all be numbered differently (Blood Shirts excepted which should be blank), failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

### [19-B] Shirt Request

EBFA Official 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. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

### [20-A-(i)] Conditions of Play - Pitches

All Competition Matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by the International Football Association Board or, for Mini-Soccer, The Mini-Soccer and Youth Futsal Handbook, or, for 9v9 football, The FA’s Guide to 9v9 Football, subject to competition rules variations.

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

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

Clubs whose grounds are owned and maintained by a Local Authority shall accept the right of that Authority to decide the fitness of the ground for play. In the event a Local Authority decides to cancel a game, their decision shall be taken as final and the Club shall notify in writing the Divisional Secretary, within three (3) days of the decision, the date and time of the inspection and the reason for the decision.

In cases where the decision as to the fitness of the ground for play is left to the appointed Referee, the Home Club/Team, with the approval of the Referee and in order to avoid unnecessary travel, shall arrange for a ground inspection by a currently registered Referee.

The visiting Club/Team shall be advised also that a pitch inspection is to take place, and the subsequent result of that inspection.

A Team being unable to supply a Home venue for whatever reason (frost, snow, waterlogged etc.) SHALL offer their opponents the opportunity to play the game at their opponent's ground on that day if the kick-off time can be arranged within one (1) hour of the original set by the Team whose pitch is unavailable. On days prior to the match day, where a Home Team is unable to supply a pitch for whatever reason it shall not stand their squad and/or Officials down until either both Managers and the relevant Divisional Secretary are in agreement about the game being postponed or the Away Team has been afforded the opportunity to provide an alternative venue. This offer to the Away team must be no later than 8pm on the day preceding the match.

Away teams must notify the Home Team of the details of an alternative venue and kick-off time, by Thursday by 9pm, so both teams and parents/guardians can be made aware of the alternative arrangements if the Home venue is not playable. Note if a match official delays the start of a match the kick-off time is delayed for the purposes of travel to the alternative venue.

In age groups where streaming Sections are being operated, thereby making reciprocity doubtful or unlikely, the Away Team shall not be obliged to accept this offer.

Any other fixture not taking place in these circumstances shall be reviewed by the Management Committee who shall have the power to inflict a fine and/or award the points or otherwise deal with the matter at their discretion. Circumstances such as travelling distances and kick off times shall all be taken into account when the Management Committee makes their decision. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

In these circumstances the Club/Team providing the pitch shall be responsible for the costs of the pitch supplied, this applies to both League and Trophy Event matches.

Shall it be found that the pitch unavailability notification has been unduly delayed in being given to the Divisional Secretary and the Away Team, thereby preventing this Section of the Rule being invoked, the offending Team may be dealt with as having failed to fulfil a fixture, and all due penalties may be imposed.

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

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

Overhead netting is allowed for 5v5 and 7v7 mini soccer if the overhead netting height is at a minimum of 6m. No overhead netting is allowed for 9v9 and 11v11 affiliated matches.

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

Playing matches under floodlights shall be permitted but both Teams shall agree to play a match under floodlights.

U12 to U21 Teams in Divisions and U7 to U21 Teams in trophy events wishing to claim the match points shall use the EBFA claim match points form, which shall be lodged with the Secretary and/or nominated persons within three (3) days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer, there is no cost for the submission of this form which shall be submitted by the Team's Club Secretary.

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



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

Age Group	Minimum duration of play per quarter (minutes) (Mini-Soccer Only)	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 fixtures (minutes)	Maximum playing time in one day in all tournaments and trophy events/festivals (minutes)	Competition structure
Under 7 and Under 8	5	10	10	20	40	60	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 2 week periods
Under 9 and Under 10	10	12.5	20	25	60	90	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 4 week periods
Under 11	N/A	N/A	20	30	80	120	Development focused with a maximum of 3 trophy events per season over 6 week periods
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. See 20 A (vi) Duration of Play and Minimum Player Playing Time for EBFA Age Group Times and Duration.

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 by the Competition only.

For trophy events, the Competition may award mementos.

### [20-A-(ii)] Conditions of Play - Manager and Coaches

Each Club shall have their Teams managed by a responsible adult. Also a nominated adult shall be at every match controlling the Team.

### [20-A-(iii)] Conditions of Play - Pitch Sizes/Respect Line

The field of play is divided into two (2) halves by a halfway line. The centre mark is indicated at the mid-point of the halfway line. The dimensions of the ground, which shall be rectangular, on a grass surface, shall be as follows:

#### Mini-Soccer - 5v5 Football

Under 7 and Under 8

Minimum Size – 30 x 20 yards

Maximum Size – 40 x 30 yards

#### Mini-Soccer - 7v7 Football

Under 9 and Under 10

Minimum Size – 50 x 30 yards

Maximum Size – 60 x 40 yards

#### Youth - 9v9 Football

Under 11 and Under 12

Minimum Size – 70 x 40 yards

Maximum Size – 80 x 50 yards

### **Youth - 11v11 Football**

Under 13 and Under 14	Minimum Size – 90 x 50 yards Maximum Size – 100 x 60 yards
Under 15 and Under 16	Minimum Size – 90 x 50 yards Maximum Size – 110 x 70 yards
Under 17 and Under 18	Minimum Size – 100 x 50 yards Maximum Size – 130 x 100 yards

### **U21 - 11v11 Football**

Under 21	Minimum Size – 100 x 50 yards Maximum Size – 130 x 100 yards
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A respect spectator line consisting of a dashed or solid marked line or a line of cones or some other barrier shall be placed adjacent to each touchline at a minimum distance of one (1) metre from the touchline for the whole length of the touchline unless the area adjacent to the touchline is smaller than three (3) metres. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Where a respect spectator line or other spectator barrier is provided then no spectators shall persistently stand or otherwise remain in any area where the spectator line is not present. Unless invited to do so by the Referee the only persons permitted to cross the spectator line or barrier shall be one (1) Manager and one (1) coach from each Team plus the players and the match Officials and Club Assistant Referees. If any other person crosses the spectator line or barrier, then at the next stoppage in play the Referee shall warn the Manager of the offending Team. If the offence is repeated a second time, then at the next stoppage in play the Referee shall inform the Manager of the offending Team that the offence shall be reported to the League. Any Team reported to the Management Committee for allowing spectators to cross the spectator line or barrier shall result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff and shall be dealt with as the Management Committee see fit.

Unless invited to do so by the Referee the only persons permitted to stand or otherwise remain within ten (10) metres of either goal shall be one (1) Manager and one (1) coach from each Team plus the players and the match Officials and Club Assistant Referees. For Mini-Soccer Football (5v5 and 7v7) one (1) extra person from the Team that is defending the goal shall also be permitted to remain near the goal. If any other person stands or otherwise remains within ten (10) metres of either goal, then at the next stoppage in play the Referee shall warn the Manager of the offending Team. If the offence is repeated a second time, then at the next stoppage in play the Referee shall inform the Manager of the offending Team that the offence shall be reported to the League. Any Team reported to the Management Committee for allowing spectators to stand or otherwise remain within ten (10) metres of either goal shall result in a fine accordance with the Fines Tariff and dealt with as the Management Committee see fit.

## **[20-A-(iv)] Conditions of Play - Pitch Equipment**

The Home Team shall ensure that the field of play has adequate markings and Regulation equipment including two (2) linesman flags.

Goal sizes shall be as follows:

### **Mini-Soccer - 5v5 Football**

Under 7 and Under 8	4 Feet High x 8 Feet Wide
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### **Mini-Soccer - 7v7 Football**

Under 9 and Under 10	6 Feet High x 12 Feet Wide
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### **Youth - 9v9 Football**

Under 11 – Under 12	Minimum Size – 7 Feet High by 16 Feet Wide Maximum Size – 7 Feet High by 21 Feet Wide
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### **Youth - 11v11 Football**

Under 13 – U14	Minimum Size – 7 Feet High by 21 Feet Wide Maximum Size – 8 Feet High by 24 Feet Wide
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Under 15 – U18	Minimum Size – 8 Feet High by 24 Feet Wide Maximum Size – 8 Feet High by 24 Feet Wide
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### **U21 - 11v11 Football**

Under 21

Minimum Size – 8 Feet High by 24 Feet Wide

Maximum Size – 8 Feet High by 24 Feet Wide

Goals shall be secured in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

Goal nets and corner flags are compulsory.

Any Team failing to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

#### [20-A-(v)] Conditions of Play - Players Equipment

Teams shall ensure that their players' equipment is not dangerous and Referees shall check the studs of players taking part in the game before allowing them to enter the field of play. Kick offs shall not be delayed, to allow equipment to be adjusted.

Players shall wear shin guards, which shall be entirely covered by the stockings.

#### [20-A-(vi)] Conditions of Play - Duration of Play and Minimum Player Playing Time

All matches shall consist of periods of play, equal in their duration:

##### Mini-Soccer - 5v5 Football

Under 7 40 minutes (10 minutes each quarter)

Under 8 40 minutes (10 minutes each quarter)

The maximum playing time in anyone (1) day for Under 7, and 8 age groups is forty (40) minutes.

All Mini-Soccer 5v5 players shall play a minimum of 50% of the match

Under 7 20 minutes' minimum per player

Under 8 20 minutes' minimum per player

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

##### Mini-Soccer - 7v7 Football

Under 9 50 minutes (12.5 minutes each quarter)

Under 10 50 minutes (12.5 minutes each quarter)

The maximum playing time in anyone (1) day for Under 9, and 10 age groups is sixty (60) minutes.

All Mini-Soccer 7v7 players shall play a minimum of 50% of the match

Under 9 25 minutes' minimum per player

Under 10 25 minutes' minimum per player

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

##### Youth - 9v9 Football

Under 11 60 minutes (30 minutes each half)

Under 12 60 minutes (30 minutes each half)

All Youth 9v9 players shall play a minimum of 50% of the match

Under 11 30 minutes' minimum per player

Under 12 30 minutes' minimum per player

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

##### Youth - 11v11 Football

Under 13 and 14 70 minutes (35 minutes each half)

Under 15 and 16 80 minutes (40 minutes each half)

Under 17 and 18 90 minutes (45 minutes each half)

All Youth 11v11 players in age groups U13 to U16, including substitutes, shall play in the match.

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

##### Open Age - U21 - 11v11 Football

Under 21 90 minutes (45 minutes each half)

Trophy Event durations are the same durations as detailed above.

Trophy Event Group matches are complete at the end of full-time, with no extra time or penalties

In the U7s to U8s Trophy Event Competition matches which are knockout match, if the scores is level at the end of normal time, no extra time shall be played. If the scores are still level at the end of normal time the winners shall be determined by the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with International Board Procedures (three (3) penalties followed by sudden death).

In the U9s to U21s Trophy Event Competition matches which are knockout match, if the scores is level at the end of normal time, the winners shall be the taking of penalty kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with International Board Procedures (Five (5) penalties followed by sudden death).

#### [20-A-(vii)] Conditions of Play - Size of Footballs

The Home Team shall provide at least two (2) footballs fit for play to the Referee at least five (5) minutes prior to the kick-off, and the Referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable.

##### **Mini-Soccer - 5v5 Football**

Under 7, and 8	Size 3 ball
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##### **Mini-Soccer - 7v7 Football**

Under 9	Size 3 ball
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Under 10	Size 3 ball
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##### **Youth - 9v9 Football**

Under 11 and 12	Size 4 ball
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##### **Youth - 11v11 Football**

Under 13, and 14	Size 4 ball
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Under 15 and 16	Size 5 ball
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Under 17 and 18	Size 5 ball
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##### **Open Age - 11v11 Football**

Under 21	Size 5 ball
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#### [20-A-(viii)] Conditions of Play - Kick-off Times of Play

Mini-Soccer 5v5 and 7v7 Football Matches Under 7 to Under 10 shall be played on Saturday and the times of kick-off shall be between 9:00am and on or before 1pm.

Youth 9v9 Football Matches Under 11 to Under 12 shall be played on Saturday and the times of kick-off shall be between 9:00am and on or before 1pm.

Youth 11v11 Football Matches Under 13, Under 14 and Under 15 shall be played on Saturday and the times of kick-off shall be between 9:00am and on or before 1pm.

Youth 11v11 Football Matches Under 16 to Under 18 shall be played on Saturday and the times of kick-off shall be between 9:00am and on or before 2pm and 1:30pm for the Trophy Event Competition matches.

Youth 11v11 Football Matches Under 21 shall be played on Sunday and the times of kick-off shall be 2pm for League matches and 1:30pm the Trophy Event Competition matches.

Earlier and later kick-off times, than those show above, shall be agreed by both Teams with the Divisional Secretary. Both Teams shall separately submit in writing the details of any agreement to the Divisional Secretary at least 24 hours before the original kick-off time. Divisional Secretary will confirm agreement or rejection of written submission. On the day inclement weather venue swaps, do not require Divisional Secretary Agreement to change of kick-off time.

Any Team failing to commence at the appointed time shall result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff and otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

The Referees shall order matches to commence at the appointed time and shall report all late starts to the Competition. In the event of the non-appearance of a Team, the opposition shall remain at the ground until fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled kick-off time.

The Home Team shall provide goal nets, corner flags and at least two (2) 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 will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

#### [20-B] Match Date

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

In the case of a revised fixture date, the Clubs must be given by the Competition 5 clear days' notice of the Competition Match

(unless otherwise mutually agreed).

### [20-C] Match Confirmation

An Officer of the home Club must give notice of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the Ground and time of kick-off to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club, including Match Officials details to the opposing Club at least six (6) clear days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. If not so provided, the away Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the Competition. Contact details of the opposition team are available through the GotFootball system.

All messages such as voice mail, emails and texts shall be considered to be undelivered until such time as a positive acknowledgement of delivery has been received in person from the recipient.

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

For Saturday Mini-Soccer Football and Saturday Youth Football the Home Team shall confirm full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the Match Official, Match Official contact details and Match Official credentials to the opposing Team by 9.00pm on the Sunday prior to the playing of the match.

For Open Age U21 Football, the Home Team shall confirm full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the match Officials, Match Official contact details and Match Official credentials to opposing Team by 9.00pm on the Tuesday prior to the playing of the match.

The Home Club/Team will confirm to the Away Club/Team that they have ensured that the referee has been issued (by email or in person) an EBFA Age Group Referee Format document to ensure the referee is aware of the EBFA competition rules relating to the age group that the referee will officiating. The Away Club/Team shall acknowledge receipt of such particulars. All messages such as voice mail, emails and texts shall be considered to be undelivered until such time as a positive acknowledgement of delivery has been received in person from the recipient.

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

### [20-D] Minimum Number of Players for Match

The minimum number of Players that will constitute a Team for a Competition Match is as follows:

FORMAT	MINIMUM
5v5	4
7v7	5
9v9	6
11v11	7

If at the time of kick-off, the number of players available to a Team is less than (four) 4 players for Mini-Soccer 5v5, (five) 5 players for Mini-Soccer 7v7 and (seven) 7 players for Youth 9v9, (seven) 7 players for Youth 11v11 football or (seven) 7 players for Open Age U21 11v11 football then that Team shall not be obliged to play the match with a reduced sized Team.

However, twenty-four (24) hours before the kick-off the match may only be postponed with the prior agreement of the opposing Team Manager and the appropriate Divisional Secretary. If permissions to postpone the match are not forthcoming from the opposition Team Manager and the appropriate Divisional Secretary, then the Division and/or Trophy Event match shall be awarded to the opposing Team.

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

### [20-E (i)] Postponements - Criteria

In competitions where points are awarded, home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have the power to impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff), deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points from the Competition Match in question to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a Competition Match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent’s Ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

No Team shall be allowed to postpone a League fixture or Trophy Event match without prior permission from the appropriate Divisional Secretary. The lack of availability of players due to suspension, illness or absence on holiday at the time of the scheduled fixture shall not be accepted as sufficient grounds for postponement.

Postponements shall only be sanctioned.

- a. If three (3) or more players for Mini-Soccer 5v5 and 7v7, or four (4) or more players for Youth 9v9 or five (5) or more players for Youth 11v11 from the Team are required to participate in school or other activities which are deemed by the Management Committee to take precedence over the League and the respective Divisional Secretary is notified in writing or by email of the activity using the EBFA Application to Postpone a Match Form at least seven (7) days before the fixture in question is due to be played and a letter from the school or organisation confirming the activity is submitted to the respective Divisional Secretary before the fixture in question is due to be played.
- b. For any Team supplying one (1) or more players for the Competition Representative matches or the Berks & Bucks FA Representative matches and the Section/Division Divisional Secretary is notified in writing or by email using the EBFA Application to Postpone a Match Form at least seven (7) days before the fixture in question is due to be played.
- c. On the grounds of Club activities, providing eight (8) weeks' notice in writing is given to the Section/Division Divisional Secretary using EBFA Form Application to Postpone a Match, and the Management Committee approves the request and the reasons given.

Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a Competition Match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice (by personal contact, telephone or mobile) to the Divisional Secretary, the Competition Referee Appointment Secretary, the Team Manager of the opposing Team and the match Officials. Any messages such as voice mail, emails and texts shall be considered to be undelivered until such time as a positive acknowledgement of delivery has been received in person from the recipient.

Teams must submit details of the match that was Not Played via the EBFA Team Match/Respect Report, on the EBFA website interface within three (3) days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. There is no cost for the submission of this report which shall be submitted by the Team's Manager.

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

#### [20-E (ii)] Postponements – Management Committee Reschedule of Fixtures

In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Team has control, it should be played in its entirety on the next available fixture date available to both Teams unless an alternative date is specified by the Divisional Secretary or the Management Committee.

Divisional Secretary and/or the Management Committee, giving five (5) days' notice, has the power to arrange or rearrange any fixture and order any Team to play any fixture on any EBFA fixture date.

Midweek and Sunday matches are permitted with the agreement of both Teams and the Divisional Secretary. Both Teams shall separately submit in writing the details, of any agreement to the Divisional Secretary at least 24 hours before the revised fixture date/kick-off time. Divisional Secretary will confirm agreement or rejection of written submissions. If in agreement, the Divisional Secretary will update the fixture date on GotFootball, at which point the fixture becomes an official EBFA fixture. No Team shall be obliged to play any match on a date that is not a fixture date as designated at the start of the season.

Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and the Clubs involved agree, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand.

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

#### [20-E (iii)] Postponements – Abandoned Matches

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 (1) Team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponent. In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall Rule all points for the match as void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

Teams must submit details of the abandoned match via the EBFA Team Match/Respect Report, on the EBFA website interface within three (3) days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. There is no cost for the submission of this report which shall be submitted by the Team's Manager.

Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. It is the responsibility of all Clubs to ensure that they are not suspended by their County FA and all Teams from any Club suspended by their County FA shall not be permitted to play in the Competition for the duration of the suspension and any fixtures not fulfilled or played during the period of the suspension shall be awarded to the opposition.

## [20-E (iv)] Club/Team Suspension

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

## [20-F] Substitutes & Mini-Soccer Power Play

Under 7s to Under 16, a player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the match shall participate in the match. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

The Referee and opposition Manager shall be informed of the names of all substitutes not later than ten (10) minutes before the start of the match, via a Team sheet.

A Team may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use a number of return substitute players in any match in this Competition.

### **Mini-Soccer - 5v5 Football**

For Teams in the Under 7 to Under 8 age groups the use of three (3) return substitutes from three (3) shall be allowed, a player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

### **Mini-Soccer - 7v7 Football**

For Teams in the Under 9 to Under 10 age groups the use of three (3) return substitutes from three (3) shall be allowed, a player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

### **Youth - 9v9 Football**

For Teams in the Under 11 to Under 12 age groups the use of three (3) return substitutes from three (3) shall be allowed, a player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

### **Youth - 11v11 Football – U13 to U16 Age Groups**

For Teams in the Under 13, Under 14, Under 15 and Under 16 boys age groups the use of five (5) return substitutes from five (5) shall be allowed, a player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

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 be considered to have been a player in that game within the meaning of Rule 18 of this Competition. However, in this Competition all Youth 11v11 players including substitutes shall play in the match.

### **Youth - 11v11 Football – U17 to U18 Age Groups**

For Teams in the Under 17 boys to Under 18 boys age groups the use of five (5) return substitutes from five (5) shall be allowed, a player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

A player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a player in that game within the meaning of Rule 8 of this Competition. However, in this Competition all Youth 11v11 players including substitutes shall play in the match.

### **Open Age U21 - 11v11 Football – U21 Age Groups**

For Teams in the Open Age Under 21 boys age groups the use of five (5) return substitutes from five (5) shall be allowed, a player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

A player who has been selected, appointed or named as a substitute before the start of the match but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a player in that game within the meaning of Rule 8 of this Competition.

## Power Play Rule - Mini-Soccer - 5v5 Football and Mini-Soccer – 7v7 Football

The FA’s Power Play Rule is authorised to allow for a better experience for Players and to facilitate development in the U7 to u10 age groups.

During a Competition Match, when the goal difference reaches FOUR (4), the losing Team may field ONE (1) additional Player. If the goal difference reaches SIX (6), the losing Team may field ONE (1) further additional Player (taking the total up to TWO (2) additional Players).

At the point the goal difference falls to FIVE (5) the losing Team must withdraw ONE (1) of their additional Players. This does not need to be ONE (1) of the Players who was introduced as an Additional Player.

At the point the goal difference falls to THREE (3) the losing Team must withdraw their final additional Player. This does not need to be ONE (1) of the Players who was introduced as an Additional Player.

Team Reds	Score	Team Blues	Procedure	5v5 No Players	7v7 No Players
Reds	3-0	Blues	No Change	5v5	7v7
Reds	4-0	Blues	Blues Team introduce ONE (1) additional Player	5v6	7v8
Reds	4-1	Blues	Blues Team remove ONE (1) additional Player	5v5	7v7
Reds	5-1	Blues	Blues Team introduce ONE (1) additional Player	5v6	7v8
Reds	6-1	Blues	No Change	5v6	7v8
Reds	7-1	Blues	Blues Team introduce ONE (1) further additional Player	5v7	7v9
Reds	7-2	Blues	Blues Team remove ONE (1) additional Player	5v6	7v8
Reds	7-3	Blues	No Change	5v6	7v8
Reds	7-4	Blues	Blues Team remove ONE (1) further additional Player	5v5	7v7

### [20-G] Match Periods of Play

For matches of two (2) equal periods 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.

For matches of four (4) equal periods the quarter time interval shall be of two (2) minutes duration, but it shall not exceed two (2) minutes. The interval times may only be altered with the consent of the Referee. Kick off each quarter at the centre Team A (who loses the toss) kicks off Q1 and Q2 and Team B kicks off Q3 and Q4. Team B (who win the toss) choose ends for Q1 and Q2, then Teams swap ends after Q2. The quarter breaks/half time break shall be two (2) minutes.

### [20-H] Respect/Codes of Conducts/Captains

The Competition shall require all players and Club Officials to have signed the FA’s Respect Codes of Conduct and Clubs shall produce these if so requested by the League Management Committee.

Prior to each match the participating Teams and Officials shall conduct the ‘Respect’ handshake at the halfway line. After the match participating Teams shall offer handshakes to the opposition Team and Mini-Soccer 5v5, Mini-Soccer 7v7 and Youth 9v9 formats Teams (U7s to U12s) shall offer ‘three cheers’.

The participating Clubs taking part in the fixture (U12 to U21) shall identify a Team captain designated with a captain’s armband who has a responsibility to offer support in the Management of the on-field discipline of their Team mates. If the participating players are considered to be too young to take on this role a member of the Team coaching staff should provide this support (U7 to U11). Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

“Not Adopted that (U7 to U11) shall have an identified Team captain”.

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 respect 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 arrangements should be made.

### [20-I] Verification of Player Registration Identity Cards

The Team Manager SHALL be in possession of the League Player Registration ID Cards for their Team, including substitutes, for each match. Team Officials SHALL EXCHANGE the relevant League Registration Cards at least ten (10) minutes prior to kick off in accordance with Appendix C PROCEDURE FOR VERIFICATION OF PLAYER REGISTRATION IDENTITY CARDS. Both Teams SHALL ensure that the exchange of League Registration Cards takes place before the start of the match.

Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.



Failure to produce a player's League Player Registration ID Card renders that player ineligible to have played in that match, unless the missing card form and procedure is completed. Rule 18 (R).

The Divisional Secretaries or any Officer of the Competition shall have power to attend matches to check Player Registration ID Cards of the competing Teams.

## [20-J] Qualified First Aider & First Aid Kit

### Qualified First Aider & First Aid Kit

Each Team shall provide a suitable first aid kit as well as a person with a First Aid Certificate in their name.

Each Club shall provide, for the individual use of each of its Teams, a clearly marked first aid kit, which shall be made available for inspection containing the following basic items -

- d. A supply of adhesive dressings;
- e. A selection of clean bandages;
- f. Suitable dressing material to enable temporary cover of lacerations etc;
- g. A supply of clean water and an eye wash facility;
- h. A suitable mouth to mouth resuscitation aid.

Adequate First Aid cover shall be provided at all matches. The minimum basic cover is the attendance of one (1) Qualified First Aider (QFA) who is registered as such with the League.

An application for registration as a Qualified First Aider shall be made providing evidence is given of a Certificate of Attendance, obtained within the last three (3) years on an approved Football Association 1<sup>st</sup> Aid course.

It is the responsibility of the Home Club to ensure that a QFA is in attendance at the match from immediately prior to the kick off until all the players and Officials have left the field of play at the conclusion of the game.

The QFA may be provided by either the Home Team or the Away Team or both teams; they shall be made known to both Managers and verbally agree to provide the required cover. The presence of a QFA does not preclude treatment by other persons but the QFA's advice shall be sought where necessary.

It is the responsibility of both Teams to enter the name and/or the EBFA registration number of the nominated QFA on the via the EBFA Team Match/Respect Report Google Form. The visiting Team shall check that a QFA is present but does not have the power to reject the nominated QFA or to request evidence of qualification. If the details of a QFA are not included it shall be assumed that no QFA was present.

No match can take place without the presence of a QFA. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) and additionally, if the match is postponed due to the absence of a QFA the game shall be rearranged by the appropriate Divisional Secretary to be played on the opponents' ground and any costs incurred shall be the responsibility of the offending Team.

Any objection or complaint regarding QFAs shall be forwarded to the League Secretary, in writing, in accordance with League Rule 7.

## [20-K] Team Availability & Player Game Limits

The Management Committee shall determine the commencement and conclusion of the season, in accordance with the FA Rules.

Teams shall be available to play fixtures on all fixture dates throughout the season and shall be available to play postponed and rearranged fixtures on all fixture dates even if the date was a free week when the original fixtures were published.

No player in age groups U7 to U16 shall be permitted to participate as a player or a substitute or as an unused substitute in more than one (1) organised game of football per day which include any football game organised by any FA, County FA, Competition, Club or School.

A player in U17, U18 and U21 age groups 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.

## 21 REPORTING RESULTS

### [21-A] Result Systems

The GotFootball system and Competition's Google Forms Team Match & Respect Report (TM&RR) shall be used as the Competition result systems.

Both Teams shall communicate match results (SCORES ONLY) via the GotFootball system, by 7pm on match day.

Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) and/or Team being dealt with as the Management Committee decides.

### [21-B] Additional Match Result Details

Additional match result details are entered by both Team's Manager or Team Administrator onto the Competition's Google Forms Team Match & Respect Report (TM&RR) and shall be completed by Monday by 22:00 hours for Saturday matches Tuesday by 22:00 Hours for Sunday matches, or within 2 days by 22:00 hours for evening matches.

Google Forms - Team Match/Respect Report including:

Report if Match Played to Result, Match Not Played or Match Abandoned  
Match details and score,  
Referee's name, contact details and credential - Referee marks  
Respect Marks for Opposition  
Details of (QFA) Qualified First Aider on duty  
Match Procedures  
Team sheet upload as PDF scan of JPG photo of the registered players who started or appeared as substitutes  
goal scores any Sin Bins, Cautions or Dismissals, duly signed by Manager, opposition Manager and Referee  
and or any other information required by the Competition

Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) and/or Team being dealt with as the Management Committee decides.

(NB. A match is defined Match Played to Result, Match Not Played or Match Abandoned. Postponed or unfulfilled matches are defined as Match Not Played to Result and requires a Team Match/Respect Report).

If a Club's Team(s) persistently fail to complete the additional match result details the Club shall be suspended by the Management Committee from the Competition until all outstanding match result details have been updated on the GotFootball system. All matches under this suspension shall be dealt with under Rule 20(E).

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

### [21-C] Publication of Additional Match Results and Grading Tables

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

The data shall be used by the League only and for the purposes of streaming Teams into Sections/Divisions of like ability.

## 22 DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

### [22-A] Determining Championship Criteria

In Competitions where points are awarded, Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three (3) points to be awarded for a win and one (1) point for a drawn Competition Match. The Teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the end of the Playing Season shall be adjudged the winners. Competition Matches must not be played for double points.

In the event of two or more Teams being equal on points at the end of the Playing Season, rankings may be determined by a deciding match or matches played under conditions determined by the Management Committee, or the position shared.

#### **U12 to U18 - 11v11 Football**

In the event of two (2) or more Teams being equal on points, Team rankings shall be decided by the following sequence of factors: -

- (i) The Team winning the most games.
- (ii) If Teams still remain equal, only the results of the League matches played between these Teams shall be considered, ranking determined by the number of matches each Team has won or drawn.
- (iii) If still equal, the aggregate number of goals scored in the matches only between these Teams shall be taken into consideration.
- (iv) In the event of Teams still being equal the League position shall be shared.

### **Open Age U21 - 11v11 Football**

In the event of two (2) or more U21 Teams being equal on points, Team rankings shall be decided in the following order:

- (i) Goal difference
- (ii) Goals scored

In the event of U21 Teams still being equal the League position shall be shared.

#### **[22-B] Not Adopted**

“Not Adopted”.

#### **[22-C] Not Adopted**

(A) “Not Adopted”.

#### **[22-D] Determining Championship – Teams Withdrawing**

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.

#### **[22-E] Determining Championship – Teams Failing to Complete 75% of its Divisional Fixtures**

In the event of a Team, at the season end failing to complete 75% of its fixtures in the U12 to U18 Divisions 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 (E) a completed fixture shall include any Competition Match(es) which has been awarded by the Management Committee.

## **23 MATCH OFFICIALS**

#### **[23-A] Referee Appointments**

Registered referees (and assistant referees were 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] No Official Appointed Procedure**

In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the Clubs shall agree upon a referee. An individual thus agreed upon shall, for that Competition Match, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of 16 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any open age competition and individuals under the age of 14 must not participate either as a referee or assistant referee in any Competition Match. Referees between the ages of 14 and 16 are only eligible to officiate in competitions where the Players’ age band is at least one year younger than the age of the referee, for example a 15 year-old referee may only officiate in competitions where the age banding is 14 or younger.

#### **[23-C] Assistant Referees**

Where assistant referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club assistant referee. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) being imposed on the defaulting Club.

#### **[23-D] Appointed Referee’s Powers**

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.

#### **[23-E] Referee and Assistant Referee Fees**

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 inclusive of travel expenses.

Match Officials will be paid their fees by the home Club before the Competition Match, unless otherwise ordered by the Management Committee. The costs for match Officials shall be shared equally by both Teams. The Away Team shall pay their share of the costs to the Home Team prior to the commencement of the match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

<b>Referees' fees</b>	
<b>Mini-Soccer - 5v5 Football</b>	
Under 7 and 8	£18.00
<b>Mini-Soccer - 7v7 Football</b>	
Under 9 and 10	£22.00
<b>Youth - 9v9 Football</b>	
Under 11 and 12	£26.00
<b>Youth - 11v11 Football</b>	
Under 13 and 14	£30.00
Under 15 and 16	£34.00
Under 17 and 18	£38.00
<b>Open Age U21 - 11v11 Football</b>	
Under 21	£40.00
<b>Assistant Referees' Fees:</b>	
Under 11 and 12	£17.00
Under 13, 14, 15, and 16	£22.00
Under 17 and 18	£24.00
Under 21	£26.00

### [23-F] Fixture Not Played and Referee and Assistant Referee Fees

In the event of a Competition Match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee. 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.

### [23-G] Referee and Assistant Referee Failing to Keep Engagement

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] Referee Performance Marking

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. Both Managers shall complete the Referee Performance marks as part of their EBFA Google Forms EBFA Team Match/Respect Report.

Any Club/Team marking a Referee fifty (50) or less shall submit details in EBFA Google Forms EBFA Team Match/Respect Report in the "Comments on Why Referee Marks Below 50".

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] Competition Reporting Referee Performance Marks

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

### [23-J] Referee Report Form

The referee shall submit a referee report form, on the Competition EBFA Match Official (Referee) Report - Google Forms. within two (2) days of the Competition Match.

### [23-K] Referee Copy Competition Rules

Match Officials shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge by download from the League website.

### [23-L] Referee Performance Marks

Match Officials shall have undertaken a RESPECT briefing offered by The FA or County.

### [23-M] Referee Registration with Competition

All persons nominated to Referee an East Berks Football Alliance match, shall be registered with the League before Refereeing matches in the League. Referees may be registered at any time prior to a match, using the EBFA Match Officials Registration Google Form.

### [23-N] Coaching

Club Officials who Referee or are Assistant Referees of a match shall refrain from coaching.

### [23-O] Club/Team Register of Referees Appointed by Club.

Each club SHALL keep a register of referees or assistant referees that they use to appoint as a club. The onus will be on the club to have checked that the person is both registered and qualified as a referee with the Football Association and has the necessary Safeguarding and DBS qualifications in place. Any complaints regarding a referee should be referred to County Football Association and EBFA management committee who may order that the person is no longer permitted to take charge of matches in this competition.

### [23-P] Team Sheets

Prior to the commencement of the match the both teams will present their EBFA Team Sheet to the Referee Match Official so the Referee can extract the team's player names and shirt numbers for their officiating duties and then return the team sheet to the team managers.

## 24 Handbook

Each Club shall provide information relating to their Club and Teams for insertion into the League GotFootball website as requested by the Management Committee no later than 31st July. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

Club Secretaries, Club Chairman, Club Treasurer, Club Welfare Officer, Team Administrators and Team Managers shall provide a valid postal address, telephone contact details and an email contact. E-mail shall be checked during the season. Any change in these Club and Team Officials contact details shall be immediately notified to the Competition using the appropriate GotFootball system. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

Each Club and Team official in the Competition shall be permitted to obtain a copy of the Competition Handbook free of charge by download from the League website.

Updates to the Club and Team Officials contact details shall be posted on the Competition's website and emailed to Club Teams as relevant.

## 25 Legal Representation

An Association, Competition, Club, Director, Manager, Club Official, Referee, Assistant Referee, or Player may be legally represented at a Personal Hearing or at an appeal, complaint, claim or enquiry, only with the written consent of the County Football Association.

## 26 Publication of Results and Reports On Web Sites and in Publications

The League wishes to encourage the publication of results (U12s to U21s) and reports on East Berks Football Alliance matches. However, any published content, on web sites or indeed any publication, shall not in any way be defamatory, abusive, or level any negative comments at the League or any Club, Team or individual, whether they are an official, Manager, player, or spectator.

Publications and web sites shall only refer to League Tables provided on the League web site. No League Tables are available for U7s, U8s, U9s, U10s and U11s.

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

## 27 Code(s) of Conduct

- (A) The League is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct which incorporate the “Spirit of Football” as set out in Rule 28 and apply to all matches played under the auspices of the League.
- (B) Clubs are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the “Spirit of the Game” as well as within the Laws of Football.
- (C) No Players, Club Officials and Supporters may intimidate or assault, or attempt to intimidate or assault a Referee, another Player or Spectator.
- (D) No Players, Club Officials and Supporters shall use insulting, offensive or abusive language or gestures or deliberately attempt to distract an opponent.
- (E) Players, Officials, Members, Supporters and Employees of the League and of Member Clubs shall adhere to the FA Code of Conduct, which prohibits racially, or sexual abusive comments and/or actions against any person.
- (F) Players, Officials, Members, Supporters and Employees of the League and of Member Club shall adhere to the FA Child Protection Guidelines, which is committed to developing a culture in which children can play football in a safe and enjoyable environment.
- (G) Clubs shall always take adequate steps to ensure the good behaviour of their members and supporters .
- (H) Failure to comply with this instruction shall result in disciplinary action being taken against the offender(s) as specified in the League’s Disciplinary Rules and Procedures.
- (I) Breaches of these Rules may result in a charge of ‘Bringing the League into Disrepute’. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

## 28 The Spirit of Football

- (A) Managers/Coaches and Referees together set the tone for the conduct of a football match. Every player is expected to make an important contribution to this.
- (B) The Spirit of the Game involves Respect for your Opponents, your own Captain and Team, the Referee and the Games’ traditional values.
- (C) It is against the Spirit of the Game to dispute a Referee’s decision in any way, to direct abuse towards an opponent, the Referee or any other person, including Racial and Sexual Abuse. It is also against the Spirit of the Game to indulge in cheating or any sharp practice. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).
- (D) There is no place for acts of violence of any kind on or off the field of play. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

## 29 Trophy Event Competition Rules

- (A) The “East Berks Football Alliance Trophy Event Competition” shall be for each age group and shall be called the “Trophy Event Competitions” for this Rule.
- (B) The Management Committee shall give consideration to hold the Cup, Plate, Shield, Bowl, Vase, and other Trophy Event Competitions in an age group, subject to Team numbers in each age group.
- (C) Teams shall not be charged a separate fee to participate in the Trophy Event Competition.
- (D) The Officers and Management Committee of the Trophy Event Competition shall be as for the League Competition.
- (E) All rounds of the Trophy Event Competition, U12 to U21 age groups, shall be played on a knockout basis.
- (F) The Trophy Event Competition for the U7 & U8 Age groups may be organised as a maximum of three (3) trophy events per season, each to be played over a maximum period of two (2) weeks. Leagues and Clubs may collect the results of their Trophy Event Competition fixtures and may only publish the result of the Final fixture of any trophy event. Group stage formats may be played with no extra time or penalties and results at the end of full-time is the result of the group stage match.  
  
The Trophy Event Competition for the U9, U10 & U11 Age groups may be organised as a maximum of three (3) trophy events per season, each to be played over a maximum period of four (4) weeks. Leagues and Clubs may collect the results of their Trophy Event Competition fixtures and may publish the result of the final fixture of any trophy event. Group stage formats may be played with no extra time or penalties and results at the end of full-time is the result of the group stage match.
- (G) The provisions of the League Rule 8 shall govern the qualification of players, except that any player transferred from one (1) Team to another shall not be eligible to play for their new Team if he has played for their former Team in any age group Trophy Event Competition in the same season. In the event of a tie being postponed for any reason only those players who were qualified

on the date of the original match shall be eligible to play. After the Quarter-Final stage no player shall be allowed to transfer Teams for Trophy Event Competition matches.

Except in the first two (2) rounds of the Trophy Event Competition a player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any Trophy Event Competition unless he has played in two (2) League fixtures for the Team in this League in the current season. If adverse weather conditions make it impossible for a registered player to complete the two (2) League fixtures then it shall be at the discretion of the Registration and Divisional Secretary, who shall provide written authority if an exception is agreed

(H) Any Club playing an ineligible player(s) or unregistered player(s) shall be fined a sum (for each such player) in accordance with the Fines Tariff and the match shall be awarded to their opponents.

(I) All matches shall consist of two/four periods of play, equal in their duration:

#### **Mini-Soccer - 5v5 Football**

Under 7	40 minutes (10 minutes each quarter)
Under 8	40 minutes (10 minutes each quarter)

The maximum playing time in anyone (1) day for Under 7, and 8 age groups is forty (40) minutes.

All Mini-Soccer 5v5 players shall play a minimum of 50% of the match

Under 7	20 minutes' minimum per player
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Under 8	20 minutes' minimum per player
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Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

#### **Mini-Soccer - 7v7 Football**

Under 9	50 minutes (12.5 minutes each quarter)
Under 10	50 minutes (12.5 minutes each quarter)

The maximum playing time in anyone (1) day for Under 9, and 10 age groups is sixty (60) minutes.

All Mini-Soccer 7v7 players shall play a minimum of 50% of the match

Under 9	25 minutes' minimum per player
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Under 10	25 minutes' minimum per player
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Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

#### **Youth - 9v9 Football**

Under 11	60 minutes (30 minutes each half)
Under 12	60 minutes (30 minutes each half)

All Youth 9v9 players shall play a minimum of 50% of the match

Under 11	30 minutes' minimum per player
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Under 12	30 minutes' minimum per player
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Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

#### **Youth - 11v11 Football**

Under 13 and 14	70 minutes (35 minutes each half)
Under 15 and 16	80 minutes (40 minutes each half)

All Youth 11v11 players in age groups U13 to U16, including substitutes, shall play in the match.

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

Under 17 and 18	90 minutes (45 minutes each half)
Under 21	90 minutes (45 minutes each half)

(J) In the U7s to U8s Trophy Event Competition matches which are knockout matches, if the scores are level at the end of normal time, no extra time shall be played. If the scores are still level at the end of normal time the winners shall be determined by the taking of a penalty Shootout (three (3) penalties followed by sudden death). As described in Appendix A - Under 7 to 21 (All Formats – Trophy Event Penalty Shootout for Knockout Matches)

(K) In the U9s to U21s Trophy Event Competition matches which are knockout matches, if the scores are level at the end of normal time, the winners shall be determined by the taking of a penalty Shootout (five (5) penalties followed by sudden death). As described in Appendix A - Under 7 to 21 (All Formats – Trophy Event Penalty Shootout for Knockout Matches)

(L) Unless otherwise decided by the Management Committee the Semi-Final ties shall be played at the venues of the first named Semi-Finalists who shall be responsible for arranging a qualified Referee who is registered with the League with the cost of the Referee shared between both Clubs. Finals shall be played on dates and at venues as arranged by the Management Committee and the Management Committee shall appoint match Officials.

(M) Referees and Assistant Referees shall be appointed in accordance with Rule 13.

(N) Teams cannot withdraw from the Competition or refuse to play in the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

(O) Mementoes shall be presented to the winning Team, and runners-up of the Finals.

(P) Except where otherwise specified in the foregoing, the Competition shall be subject to the Rules of the League and matches played in conformity therewith.

(Q) In group matches, teams allocated a bye will be awarded a 3 - 0 win.

(R) For any match that is defaulted the match shall be awarded to the opposition as a 3 - 0 win and the defaulting Team may be fined in accordance with our Rules.

## 30 Age Formats Development/Divisional Streaming

The Competition shall stream each age group, subject to Team application in the general manner:

### U7s & U8s – Format 5v5

The season shall consist of organised Development fixtures. Development Matches

Team streaming

- Teams Streamed – Jun-Aug
- Streaming Development Matches - S1 - Sep-Dec - 10/12 Teams per Section
- Team streaming – Dec
- Streaming Development Matches – S2 – Jan-May - 10/12 Teams per Section

Fixtures on GotFootball System.

The League shall collect, and Clubs may collect the results of their fixtures, but both League and Clubs shall not publish the results of any streaming Development fixtures, and shall not publish any League tables in respect of their fixtures.

### U9s – Format 7v7

The season shall consist of organised Development fixtures. Development Matches

Team streaming

- Teams Streamed – Jun-Aug
- Streaming Development Matches - S1 - Sep-Dec - 10/12 Teams per Section
- Team streaming – Dec
- Streaming Development Matches – S2 – Jan-May - 10/12 Teams per Section

Fixtures on GotFootball System.

The League shall collect, and Clubs may collect the results of their fixtures, but both League and Clubs shall not publish the results of any streaming Development fixtures and shall not publish any League tables in respect of their fixtures.



## U10s – Format 7v7

The season shall consist of organised Development fixtures. Development Matches

Team streaming

- Teams Streamed – Jun-Aug
- Streaming Development Matches - S1 - Sep-Dec - 10/12 Teams per Section
- Team streaming – Dec
- Streaming Development Matches – S2 – Jan-May - 10/12 Teams per Section

Fixtures on GotFootball System.

The League shall collect, and Clubs may collect the results of their fixtures, but both League and Clubs shall not publish the results of any streaming Development fixtures and shall not publish any League tables in respect of their fixtures.

## U11s – Format 9v9

The season shall consist of consist of organised Development fixtures from Sep to Dec and organised Divisional fixtures Jan-May.

Development Matches - Team streaming

- Teams Streamed – Jun-Aug
- Streaming Development Matches - S1 - Sep-Dec - 10/12 Teams per Section
- Team streaming – Dec
- Streaming Development Matches – S2 – Jan-May - 10/12 Teams per Section

Fixtures on GotFootball System.

The League shall collect, and Clubs may collect the results of their fixtures, but both League and Clubs shall not publish the results of any streaming Development fixtures and shall not publish any League tables in respect of their fixtures.

## U12s – Format 9v9

The season shall consist of organised Divisional fixtures.

Divisional Matches - Team streaming

- Teams Streamed – Jun-Aug
- Divisional Matches - D1 - Sep-May - 10/12 Teams per Section
- League policy on demotion at Christmas applies.

Fixtures and Results on GotFootball System.

The League shall collect the results of their fixtures, publish the results and League tables in respect of their fixtures.

## U13s – Format 11v11

The season shall consist of consist of organised Development fixtures from Sep to Dec and organised Divisional fixtures Jan-May.

Development Matches - Team streaming

- Teams Streamed – Jun-Aug
- Streaming Development Matches - S1 - Sep-Dec - 10/12 Teams per Section
- Team streaming – Dec
- Divisional Matches – D1 – Jan-May - 10/12 Teams per Section

Fixtures and Results on GotFootball System.

The League shall collect the results of their fixtures, publish the results and League tables in respect of their fixtures.

## U14s to U21s – Format 11v11

The season shall consist of organised Divisional fixtures.

Divisional Matches - Team streaming

- Teams Streamed – Jun-Aug
- Divisional Matches - D1 - Sep-May - 10/12 Teams per Section
- League policy on demotion at Christmas applies.

Fixtures and Results on GotFootball System.

The League shall collect the results of their fixtures, publish the results and League tables in respect of their fixtures.

# Appendix A - Mini-Soccer and Youth Age Group Rules

## Under 7 & 8 (Mini-Soccer - 5v5 Football)

**GotFootball Teams Sheet to be presented to Referee and Opposition Manager minimum of 10 minutes before kick-off**

**This age group format sheet to be presented to the Referee by both teams a minimum of 10 minutes before kick-off**

Under 7 and 8 (Mini-Soccer - 5v5 Football – mixed gender football). The object is to keep the game flowing as much as possible, and make sure the players enjoy themselves.

### Age Limits

U7s - Over 6 but Under 7 as at Midnight August 31st. <sup>β</sup>

U8s - Over 6 but Under 8 as at Midnight August 31st.

1. Team size shall be 5v5.
2. The playing area shall be maximum size 40 yards x 30 yards, minimum size 30 yards x 20 yards. Cones can be used to mark touch and goal lines.
3. The Penalty area shall be designated by a marked out a rectangle, size 16 yards wide by 9 yards deep from the goal line. The penalty area can either be marked by cones on the touchline or one or two marker cones across the playing area.
4. The penalty spot shall be in the centre of the penalty area, 7 yards from the goal line.
5. The goal size for all age groups is 8 ft. X 4 ft. stand shall be secured in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
6. Goal nets and corner flags are compulsory.
7. The ball shall be a size 3.
8. A maximum of 3 substitutes at U7s and 3 substitutes at U8s may be used at any time with the permission of the Referee. Players may renter the game and all players shall play a minimum of 20 minutes per match.
9. Players shall wear shin guards, which shall be entirely covered with stockings.
10. A Referee shall be allocated to every match. It is their decision as to whether he requires Assistant Referees to run the line. All Referees shall have a whistle, red and yellow cards plus a notebook. It is the responsibility of the Home Team to ensure this.
11. Duration of matches shall be 4 x 10-minute quarters. 2 minutes between each quarter. Teams to change ends after 2 quarters.
12. U7s & U8s Trophy Event Competition matches which are group matches, finish at the end of normal time. U7s & U8s Trophy Event Competition matches which are knockout match, if the scores are level at the end of normal time, the winners shall be determined by the taking of a Penalty Shootout (three (3) penalties followed by sudden death), as described in Appendix A - Under 7 to 21 (All Formats – Trophy Event Penalty Shootout for Knockout Matches).
13. The kick-off is taken in the centre of the playing area to start the game at each quarter and after a goal has been scored. A goal may not be scored from a kick-off.
14. There is no offside
15. All Free kicks are direct
16. Ball that deliberately goes over the Referee's head height (6ft approx.); restart is by a free kick to opposition. If the ball over head height is in the penalty area, then the free kick is taken from the edge of the penalty area – this is not a penalty offence.
17. No throw ins – Ball returned to play by a roll-in
18. The opposition shall be at least 5 yards Away when a corner, free kick, centre kick is awarded.
19. Goalkeepers can handle the ball in the penalty area and there are no restrictions on the number of steps they may take when holding the ball. Keeper returns ball to play by rolling out or pass with opposition retreating behind half-way.
20. There are no Goal kicks.
21. Defensive free kicks and drop balls within the penalty area shall be kicked from the edge of the penalty area.
22. The back-pass rule does not apply.
23. Minisoccer Power Play Law provides for
  - 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.
  - The main aim of the Power Play option is that all players are being challenged and enjoying the game.
24. Club Officials who Referee a match shall refrain from coaching.
25. Prior to each match the Team Sheet and Player Reg ID Verification procedures must be complied with.
26. Prior to each match the participating Teams and Officials shall conduct the 'Respect' handshake
27. Players shall shake hands at the end of each match.
28. Supporters are not allowed within 10 meters of the goals.
29. Common sense shall prevail at all times.
30. The Team Officials shall be held responsible for the behaviour of players, supporters and any other persons involved with the fixture.
31. Any protest or complaint shall be forwarded to the League Secretary as per Rule 7.
32. Any matters of misconduct while the Referee is at the venue, are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association
33. Except where otherwise provided above, the Laws of Association football shall apply
34. All Referees shall be paid before the start of the match by the Home Team and the costs split equally between the two Teams.
35. Referee after the match to please complete an EBFA Match Official (Referee) Report on EBFA Google Forms.
36. Teams will complete score result on GotFootball and Team Match/Respect Report on EBFA Google Forms.

<sup>β</sup> As soon as children reaches the age of 6 they can be registered to play football at U7s. However, children attaining the age of 6 during the playing season (i.e. after 31 August) may not play up an age group until the following season. i.e. They can only play at U7s only when they reach 6 during the season.

## Under 9 & Under 10 (Mini-Soccer - 7v7 Football)

**GotFootball Teams Sheet to be presented to Referee and Opposition Manager minimum of 10 minutes before kick-off**  
**This age group format sheet to be presented to the Referee by both teams a minimum of 10 minutes before kick-off**

### Under 9 and Under 10 (Mini-Soccer - 7v7 Football)

The game is for Mini-Soccer 7v7 Football (boys and girls mixed football is allowed). The object is to keep the game flowing as much as possible, and make sure the players enjoy themselves.

#### Age Limits

U9s - Over 7 but Under 9 as at Midnight August 31st.

U10s - Over 8 but Under 10 as at Midnight August 31st.

1. Team size shall be 7v7.
2. The playing area shall be maximum size 60 yards x 40 yards, minimum size 50 yards x 30 yards. Marker cones can be used to mark touch and goal lines.
3. The Penalty area shall be designated by a marked out a rectangle, size 18 yards wide by 10 yards deep from the goal line. The penalty area can either be marked by cones on the touchline or one or two marker cones across the playing area.
4. The penalty spot shall be in the centre of the penalty area, 8 yards from the goal line.
5. The goal size for all age groups is 12 ft x 6 ft. Goals shall be secured in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
6. Goal nets and corner flags are compulsory.
7. U9/U10 ball shall be a size 3.
8. A maximum of 3 substitutes may be used at any time with the permission of the Referee. Players may re-enter the game and all players shall play a minimum of 25 minutes per match.
9. Players shall wear shin guards, which shall be entirely covered with stockings.
10. A Referee shall be allocated to every match. It is their decision as to whether he requires Assistant Referees to run the line. All Referees shall have a whistle, red and yellow cards plus a notebook. It is the responsibility of the Home Team to ensure this.
11. Duration of matches shall be 4 x 12.5 minutes per quarters, 2 minutes between each quarter. Teams to change ends after 2 quarters.
12. U9s & U10s Trophy Events Matches - In the group matches there is have no extra time or penalties. U9s & U10s Trophy Event Competition which are knockout matches have no extra time and if scores are level at the end of normal time, the winner shall be determined by the taking of a Penalty Shootout (five (5) penalties followed by sudden death), as described in Appendix A - Under 7 to 21 (All Formats – Trophy Event Penalty Shootout for Knockout Matches).
13. The kick-off is taken in the centre of the playing area to start the game at each quarter and after a goal has been scored.
14. There is no offside
15. All Free kicks are direct
16. Throw ins shall be taken in the normal way. A foul throw shall be given another chance after which it shall be awarded to the opponent.
17. The opposition shall be at least 5 yards Away when a corner, free kick and centre kick are awarded.
18. Goalkeepers can handle the ball in the penalty area and there are no restrictions on the number of steps they may take when holding the ball. They may return the ball into play by either drop kicking it or throwing it out of the penalty area.
19. Goal kicks and Defensive free kicks within the penalty area may be kicked from the edge of the penalty area.
20. Opposition retreat behind half-way line for Goal kicks.
21. The back-pass rule does apply. In the event that the goalkeeper picks the ball up from a pass by their own Teammate. A direct free kick shall be taken from the edge of the penalty area parallel with where the ball was picked up.
22. Minisoccer Power Play Law provides for
  - 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.
  - The main aim of the Power Play option is that all players are being challenged and enjoying the game.
23. Supporters are not allowed within 10 meters of the goals.
24. Club Officials who Referee a match shall refrain from coaching.
25. Prior to each match the Team Sheet and Player Reg ID verification procedures must be complied with.
26. Prior to each match the participating Teams and Officials shall conduct the 'Respect' handshake.
27. Players shall shake hands at the end of each match.
28. Common sense shall prevail at all times.
29. The Team Officials shall be held responsible for the behaviour of players, supporters and any other persons involved with the fixture.
30. Any protest or complaint shall be forwarded to the League Secretary as per Rule 7.
31. Any matters of misconduct while the Referee is at the venue, are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association
32. Except where otherwise provided above, the Laws of Association football shall apply
33. All Referees shall be paid before the start of the match by the Home Team and the costs split equally between the two Teams.
34. The referee shall submit a referee report form, on League website or paper copy supplied by the Competition. within two (2) days of the Competition Match.
35. Referee after the match to please complete an EBFA Match Official (Referee) Report on EBFA Google Forms.
36. Teams will complete score result on GotFootball and Team Match/Respect Report on EBFA Google Forms.

## Under 11 & Under 12 (Youth – 9v9 Football)

**GotFootball Teams Sheet to be presented to Referee and Opposition Manager minimum of 10 minutes before kick off**  
**This age group format sheet to be presented to the Referee by both teams a minimum of 10 minutes before kick-off**

Under 11 and Under 12 (9v9 Youth Mixed Football). The object is to keep the game flowing as much as possible, and make sure the players enjoy themselves.

### Age Limits

U11s - Over 9 but Under 11 as at Midnight August 31st.

U12s - Over 10 but Under 12 as at Midnight August 31st.

1. Team size shall be 9v9.
2. The playing area shall be maximum size 80 yards x 50 yards, minimum size 70 yards x 40 yards. The Playing area shall be marked with a regulation line marking compound.
3. The penalty area shall be designated by a marked out a rectangle, size 32 yards wide by 13 yards deep from the goal line.
4. The goal area shall be designated by a marked out a rectangle, size 14 yards wide by 4 yards deep from the goal line.
5. The penalty spot shall be in the centre of the penalty area, 8 yards from the goal line.
6. The goal size for all age groups is 16 ft x 7 ft or 21 ft x 7 ft. Goals shall be secured in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
7. Goal nets and corner flags are compulsory.
8. The ball shall be a size 4.
9. A maximum of 3 substitutes may be used at any time with the permission of the Referee. Players may re-enter the game with permission of the Referee and all players shall play a minimum of 30 minutes per match.
10. Players shall wear shin guards, which shall be entirely covered with stockings.
11. A Referee shall be allocated to every match. Each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee to run the line. All Referees shall have a whistle, red and yellow cards plus a notebook. It is the responsibility of the Home Team to ensure this.
12. U11 and U12 Duration of matches shall be 2 x 30 minutes per half, 5 minutes between each half. Teams to change ends after 1st half.
13. U11s Trophy Events Matches - In the group matches there is have no extra time or penalties. U12s Trophy Events Matches are all knockout matches. U11 & U12 Trophy Event Competition which are knockout matches have no extra time and if scores are level at the end of normal time, the winner shall be determined by the taking of a Penalty Shootout (five (5) penalties followed by sudden death), as described in Appendix A - Under 7 to 21 (All Formats – Trophy Event Penalty Shootout for Knockout Matches).
14. The kick-off is taken in the centre of the playing area to start the game at each half/quarter and after a goal has been scored.
15. Offside rule applies.
16. Throw ins shall be taken in the normal way. A foul throw shall be awarded to the opponent.
17. The opposition shall be at least 10 yards Away when a corner, free kick, centre kick and goal kicks is awarded.
18. Goalkeepers can handle the ball in the penalty area and there are no restrictions on the number of steps they may take when holding the ball. They may return the ball into play by either drop kicking it or throwing it out of the penalty area.
19. Goal kicks within the penalty area may be kicked from within the goal area.
20. The back-pass rules apply.
21. Club Officials who Referee a match shall refrain from coaching.
22. Prior to each match the Team Sheet and Player Reg ID verification procedures must be complied with.
23. Prior to each match the participating Teams and Officials shall conduct the 'Respect' handshake.
24. The Team Officials shall be held responsible for the behaviour of players, supporters and any other persons involved with the fixture.
25. Any protest or complaint shall be forwarded to the League Secretary as per Rule 7.
26. Any matters of misconduct while the Referee is at the venue, are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association
27. Except where otherwise provided above, the Laws of Association football shall apply.
28. All Referees shall be paid before the start of the match by the Home Team and the costs split equally between the two Teams.
29. Referee after the match to please complete an EBFA Match Official (Referee) Report on EBFA Google Forms.
30. Teams will complete score result on GotFootball and Team Match/Respect Report on EBFA Google Forms.

## Under 13 to Under 18 (Youth – 11v11 Football)

**GotFootball Teams Sheet to be presented to Referee and Opposition Manager minimum of 10 minutes before kick-off**  
**This age group format sheet to be presented to the Referee by both teams a minimum of 10 minutes before kick-off**

### Under 13 to Under 18 - 11v11 Youth Mixed Football

#### Age Limits

U13s - Over 11 but Under 13 as at Midnight August 31st.	U14s - Over 12 but Under 14 as at Midnight August 31st.
U15s - Over 13 but Under 15 as at Midnight August 31st.	U16s - Over 14 but Under 16 as at Midnight August 31st.
U17s - Over 15 but Under 17 as at Midnight August 31st.	U18s - Over 15 but Under 18 as at Midnight August 31st.

1. Team size shall be 11v11.
2. The playing area shall be:
  - Under 13 and Under 14 Maximum Size – 100 x 60 yards, Minimum Size – 90 x 50 yards
  - Under 15 and Under 16 Maximum Size – 110 x 70 yards, Minimum Size – 90 x 50 yards
  - Under 17 and Under 18 Maximum Size – 130 x 100 yards, Minimum Size – 100 x 50 yards
3. The Playing area shall be marked with a regulation line marking compound.
4. The penalty area shall be designated by a marked out a rectangle, size 44 yards wide by 18 yards deep from the goal line.
5. The goal area shall be designated by a marked out a rectangle, size 14 yards wide by 6 yards deep from the goal line.
6. The penalty spot shall be in the centre of the penalty area, 12 yards from the goal line.
7. The goal size are:
  - Under 13 – U14 Maximum Size – 8 Ft. High by 24 Ft. Wide, Minimum Size – 7 Ft. High by 21 Ft. Wide
  - Under 15 – U18 Maximum Size – 8 Ft. High by 24 Ft. Wide, Minimum Size – 8 Ft. High by 24 Ft. Wide
8. Goals shall be secured in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
9. Goal nets and corner flags are compulsory.
10. The ball shall be:
  - Under 13, and 14 Size 4 ball &
  - Under 15, 16, 17 & 18 Size 5 ball
11. A maximum of 5 substitutes may be used at any time with the permission of the Referee. Players may re-enter the game with permission of the Referee. All Youth 11v11 players in age groups U13 to U16, including substitutes, shall play in the match.
12. Players shall wear shin guards, which shall be entirely covered with stockings.
13. A Referee shall be allocated to every match. Each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee to run the line. All Referees shall have a whistle, red and yellow cards plus a notebook. It is the responsibility of the Home Team to ensure this.
14. Duration of matches shall be:
  - Under 13 and 14 70 minutes (35 minutes each half)
  - Under 15 and 16 80 minutes (40 minutes each half)
  - Under 17 and 18 90 minutes (45 minutes each half)5 minutes between each half. Teams to change ends after 1st half.
15. U13 to U18s Trophy Event Competition are all knockout matches. If the scores is level at the end of normal time, the winner shall be determined by the taking of a Penalty Shootout (five (5) penalties followed by sudden death), as described in Appendix A - Under 7 to 21 (All Formats – Trophy Event Penalty Shootout for Knockout Matches).
16. The kick-off is taken in the centre of the playing area to start the game at each half/quarter and after a goal has been scored.
17. Offside rule applies.
18. Club Officials who Referee a match shall refrain from coaching.
19. Prior to each match the Team Sheet and Player Reg ID verification procedures must be complied with.
20. Prior to each match the participating Teams and Officials shall conduct the 'Respect' handshake.
21. The Team Officials shall be held responsible for the behaviour of players, supporters and any other persons involved with the fixture.
22. Any protest or complaint shall be forwarded to the League Secretary as per Rule 7.
23. Any matters of misconduct while the Referee is at the venue, are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association
24. Except where otherwise provided above, the Laws of Association football shall apply.
25. All Referees shall be paid before the start of the match by the Home Team and the costs split equally between the two Teams.
26. The referee shall submit a referee report form, on League website or paper copy supplied by the Competition. within two (2) days of the Competition Match.
27. Referee after the match to please complete an EBFA Match Official (Referee) Report on EBFA Google Forms.
28. Teams will complete score result on GotFootball and Team Match/Respect Report on EBFA Google Forms.

## Under 21 (Open Age – 11v11 Football)

**GotFootball Teams Sheet to be presented to Referee and Opposition Manager minimum of 10 minutes before kick-off**  
**This age group format sheet to be presented to the Referee by both teams a minimum of 10 minutes before kick-off**

### Under 21 - 11v11 Open Age Male Football

#### Age Limits

U21s - Over 16 but Under 21 as at Midnight August 31st.

1. Team size shall be 11v11.
2. The playing area shall be:
  - Under 21 Maximum Size – 130 x 100 yards, Minimum Size – 100 x 50 yards
3. The Playing area shall be marked with a regulation line marking compound.
4. The penalty area shall be designated by a marked out a rectangle, size 44 yards wide by 18 yards deep from the goal line.
5. The goal area shall be designated by a marked out a rectangle, size 14 yards wide by 6 yards deep from the goal line.
6. The penalty spot shall be in the centre of the penalty area, 12 yards from the goal line.
7. The goal size are:
  - Under 21 Maximum Size – 8 Ft. High by 24 Ft. Wide, Minimum Size – 8 Ft. High by 24 Ft. Wide
8. Goals shall be secured in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
9. Goal nets and corner flags are compulsory.
10. The ball shall be:
  - Under 21 Size 5 ball.
11. A maximum of 5 substitutes may be used at any time with the permission of the Referee. Players may re-enter the game with permission of the Referee.
12. Players shall wear shin guards, which shall be entirely covered with stockings.
13. A Referee shall be allocated to every match. Each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee to run the line. All Referees shall have a whistle, red and yellow cards plus a notebook. It is the responsibility of the Home Team to ensure this.
14. Duration of matches shall be:
  - Under 21 90 minutes (45 minutes each half)
  - 5 minutes between each half. Teams to change ends after 1st half.
15. U21s Trophy Event Competition are all knockout matches. If the scores is level at the end of normal time, the winner shall be determined by the taking of a Penalty Shootout (five (5) penalties followed by sudden death), as described in Appendix A - Under 7 to 21 (All Formats – Trophy Event Penalty Shootout for Knockout Matches).
16. The kick-off is taken in the centre of the playing area to start the game at each half and after a goal has been scored.
17. Offside rule applies.
18. Club Officials who Referee a match shall refrain from coaching.
19. Prior to each match the Team Sheet and Player Reg ID verification procedures must be complied with.
20. Prior to each match the participating Teams and Officials shall conduct the 'Respect' handshake.
21. The Team Officials shall be held responsible for the behaviour of players, supporters and any other persons involved with the fixture.
22. Any protest or complaint shall be forwarded to the League Secretary as per Rule 7.
23. Any matters of misconduct while the Referee is at the venue, are under the jurisdiction of The FA or Affiliated Association
24. Except where otherwise provided above, the Laws of Association football shall apply.
25. All Referees shall be paid before the start of the match by the Home Team and the costs split equally between the two Teams.
26. The referee shall submit a referee report form, on League website or paper copy supplied by the Competition. within two (2) days of the Competition Match.
27. Referee after the match to please complete an EBFA Match Official (Referee) Report on EBFA Google Forms.
28. Teams will complete score result on GotFootball and Team Match/Respect Report on EBFA Google Forms.

## Under 7 to 21 (All Formats – Trophy Event Penalty Shootout for Knockout Matches)

### Trophy Events Knockout Matches - Determining the Outcome of a Match – Law 10 (Penalty Shootout)

#### 1. Goal scored

A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar, provided that no offence has been committed by the team scoring the goal.

If the goalkeeper throws the ball directly into the opponents' goal, a goal kick is awarded.

If a referee signals a goal before the ball has passed wholly over the goal line, play is restarted with a dropped ball.

#### 2. Winning team

The team scoring the greater number of goals is the winner. If both teams score no goals or an equal number of goals, the match is drawn.

When competition rules require a winning team, for instance in the EBFA Trophy Event Knock Out Rounds, after a drawn match or home-and-away tie, the only permitted procedures to determine the winning team are:

- away goals rule {Not sanctioned by EBFA}
- two equal periods of extra time not exceeding 15 minutes each {Not sanctioned by EBFA}
- kicks from the penalty mark (AKA Penalty Shootout)

A combination of the above procedures may be used.

#### 3. Kicks from the penalty mark (AKA Penalty Shootout)

Kicks from the penalty mark are taken after the match has ended and unless otherwise stated, the relevant Laws of the Game apply. A player who has been sent off during the match is not permitted to take part; warnings and cautions issued during the match are not carried forward into kicks from the penalty mark.

##### Procedure

##### *Before kicks from the penalty mark start*

- Unless there are other considerations (e.g. ground conditions, safety etc.), the referee tosses a coin to decide the goal at which the kicks will be taken, which may only be changed for safety reasons or if the goal or playing surface becomes unusable.
- The referee tosses a coin again, and the team that wins the toss decides whether to take the first or second kick.
- With the exception of a substitute for a goalkeeper who is unable to continue, only players who are on the field of play or are temporarily off the field of play (injury, adjusting equipment etc.) at the end of the match are eligible to take kicks. Goalkeeper at the end of the match.
- Each team is responsible for selecting from the eligible players the order in which they will take the kicks. The referee is not informed of the order.
- If at the end of the match and before or during the kicks one team has a greater number of players than its opponents, it must reduce its numbers to the same number as its opponents and the referee must be informed of the name and number of each player excluded. Any excluded player is not eligible to take part in the kicks (except as outlined below).
- A goalkeeper who is unable to continue before or during the kicks may be replaced by a player excluded to equalise the number of players or, if their team has not used its maximum permitted number of substitutes, a named substitute, but the replaced goalkeeper takes no further part and may not take a kick.
- If the goalkeeper has already taken a kick, the replacement may not take a kick until the next round of kicks.



***During kicks from the penalty mark.***

- Only eligible players and match officials are permitted to remain on the field of play.
- All eligible players, except the player taking the kick and the two goalkeepers, must remain within the centre circle.
- The goalkeeper of the kicker must remain on the field of play, outside the penalty area, on the goal line where it meets the penalty area boundary line.
- An eligible player may change places with the goalkeeper.
- The kick is completed when the ball stops moving, goes out of play or the referee stops play for any offence; the kicker may not play the ball a second time,
- The referee keeps a record of the kicks.
- If the goalkeeper commits an offence and, as a result, the kick is retaken, the goalkeeper is warned for the first offence and cautioned for any subsequent offence(s).
- If the kicker is penalised for an offence committed after the referee has signalled for the kick to be taken, that kick is recorded as missed and the kicker is cautioned.
- If both the goalkeeper and the kicker commit an offence at the same time, the kick is recorded as missed and the kicker is cautioned.

***Subject to the conditions explained below, both teams take  
three kicks for U7s & U8s, 5v5 format matches.  
five kicks for U9s to U18s, 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11 format matches.***

- The kicks are taken alternately by the teams.
- Each kick is taken by a different player, and all eligible players must take a kick before any player can take a second kick.
- If, before both teams have taken five kicks {three kicks for 5v5 format matches, U7s & U8s}, one has scored more goals than the other could score, even if it were to complete its five kicks {three kicks for 5v5 format matches, U7s & U8s}, no more kicks are taken.
- If, after both teams have taken five kicks {three kicks for 5v5 format matches, U7s & U8s}, the scores are level, kicks continue until one team has scored a goal more than the other from the same number of kicks.
- The above principle continues for any subsequent sequence of kicks but a team may change the order of kickers.
- Kicks from the penalty mark must not be delayed for a player who leaves the field of play. The player's kick will be forfeited (not scored) if the player does not return in time to take a kick.

***Substitutions and sendings-off during kicks from the penalty mark.***

- A player, substitute, substituted player or team official may be cautioned or sent off.
- A goalkeeper who is sent off must be replaced by an eligible player.
- A player other than the goalkeeper who is unable to continue may not be replaced.
- The referee must not abandon the match if a team is reduced to fewer than

7 (seven) players – 11v11 format (U13s to U18s).  
6 (six) players – 9v9 format (U11s and U12s).  
5 (five) players – 7v7 format (U9s and U10s).  
4 (four) players – 5v5 format (U7s and U8s).

***FAQs - Kicks from the penalty mark (Penalty Shootout)***

Q1- A goalkeeper is injured during kicks from the penalty mark and is replaced by a substitute (another goalkeeper). What is the further procedure?

A1-The replaced goalkeeper takes no further part and may not take a kick. If the goalkeeper has already taken a kick, the replacement may not take a kick until the next round of kicks.

Q2- A player (other than the goalkeeper) is injured during kicks from the penalty mark (KFPM) and unable to continue. Their team has not used its maximum number of substitutes. What is the correct procedure?

A2-The player can leave the KFPM but may not be replaced. The opposing team must remove one player (to equalise the numbers) and inform the referee.

Q3- A player (Team A) is injured at the end of extra time and unable to continue. Team A has already used its maximum number of substitutes. May Team A exclude the injured player from taking part in the kicks from the penalty mark? What is the correct procedure assuming that both teams have the same number of players on the field?

A3-Yes, the injured player may be excluded. Team B must then exclude one player and inform the referee of the name/number of this excluded player.

Q4- During kicks from the penalty mark, after completing the run-up, the kicker feints to kick the ball and, at the same time, the goalkeeper moves off the goal line with both feet. What is the referee's decision?

A4-The kick is recorded as missed and the kicker is cautioned (yellow card, YC). When (rarely) the goalkeeper and the kicker offend at exactly the same time, the kicker should be penalised, as it is the 'illegal' feinting that has caused the goalkeeper's encroachment.

Q5- During kicks from the penalty mark, the goalkeeper moves off the goal line with both feet and, as a result, the kick is retaken. What disciplinary action does the referee take?

A5-As most goalkeeper encroachment results from mis-anticipating when the ball will be kicked, the goalkeeper is warned for a first offence but must be cautioned (yellow card, YC) for any further offence(s) at the retaken kick and/or any subsequent kick.

Q6- A player is cautioned (yellow card, YC) during extra time. After the match has ended, the same player receives a YC during kicks from the penalty mark. What is the referee's decision?

A6-Warnings and cautions (YCs) issued during the match (including during extra time) are not carried forward into kicks from the penalty mark (KFPM). A player who receives a YC during both the match and the KFPM is not sent off. The two separate cautions are reported to the appropriate authorities.

Q7- A player is shown a direct red card during kicks from the penalty mark. What is the correct procedure?

A7-The player is sent off and the opposing team must withdraw one player as well. The referee must be informed which player is being withdrawn.

Q8- A goalkeeper is injured during kicks from the penalty mark and is unable to continue. The team has already used three substitutes. May the injured goalkeeper be replaced?

A8-Yes, the goalkeeper may be replaced by:

1. a substitute if the competition rules allow an additional substitute in extra time
2. a player excluded to equalise the number of players
3. a team-mate who is on the field.

Q9- Can a goalkeeper score a goal by throwing the ball from their penalty area into the opponents' goal?

A9-No. If the goalkeeper throws the ball directly into the opponents' goal, a goal kick is awarded.

Q10- Must the referee be informed of the order in which players will take the kicks from the penalty mark?

A10-No. The order of the kickers is the tactical responsibility of the teams. The referee's responsibility is to make sure that no player takes a second kick before every other team member has taken their first kick.

Q11- Is it allowed to replace a goalkeeper after the match has ended, before kicks from the penalty mark?

A11-It is only allowed if a goalkeeper is unable to continue e.g. injured, ill and the team has not used the maximum number of substitutes.

Q12-At the end of the match and before the kicks from the penalty mark Team A has a greater number of players than its opponents (Team B). What is the correct procedure?

A12-Team A must reduce its numbers to the same number as its opponents and the referee must be informed of the name and number of each player excluded. Any such excluded player is not eligible to take part in the kicks (except as outlined in the Laws of the Game).

Q13-During kicks from the penalty mark, a coach acts in a provocative manner towards opposing team officials. What is the correct decision?

A13-The referee may take disciplinary action against team officials who fail to act in a responsible manner during kicks. The coach will be cautioned (yellow card) or sent off (red card) depending on the exact circumstances.

Q14-A team official is cautioned (yellow card, YC) during extra time. The same person receives a YC during kicks from the penalty mark (KFPM). What is the correct procedure?

A14-Warnings and cautions (YCs) issued during the match (including during extra time) are not carried forward into KFPM. A team official who receives a YC during both the match and then during KFPM is not sent off. The two separate cautions are reported to the appropriate authorities.

Q15-A coach enters the field of play during kicks from the penalty mark and approaches the penalty area to confront the referee. What action does the referee take?

A15-The coach is sent off (red card) and must leave the field of play and its immediate surrounds, including the technical area.

## Appendix B – Respect Marks Age Group Awards Scheme

1. The aim is to give players, Managers and parents/supporters a Respect Age Group Award to aim for during the season.
2. The ethos behind the scheme is to encourage fair play throughout the age groups. Encouraging young sports people to behave in a sportsman like manner and play fairly is a step towards these players adhering to these ways in the future. The increased pressure of the professional game does not always set the best examples, and we need to show, through the Fair Play Award Scheme, how the game shall be played and what behaviour is expected.
3. Soccer in the League is aimed at developing the football skills in young people in a safe but enjoyable environment. Serious Competition at too early an age has been shown to be damaging to players and turned many away from what shall be an enjoyable and worthwhile sport.
4. Goal scores shall not count towards the award, as it is really all about fair and sporting behaviour.
5. After each fixture the opposing Teams fill out a score card each with a rating for the other Team's behaviour for not only the players, but also the Managers and supporters.

### Results Publication

6. Team positions shall be published on the East Berks Football Alliance Web Site and updated during the season and made available to local newspapers.

### Rules of The Respect Marks Award Scheme

7. The Respect scheme incorporates marks for the opposing Team's behaviour from the players, Manager/coach and supporters.
8. A maximum of one hundred (100) points can be scored for each of the three categories of opposing players, Manager and supporters. The minimum score is one (1) point for each category.
9. Team Managers/Coaches are required to complete the Respect Section of the Team Marks /Respect Report Google Form for Divisional, Section and Trophy Event matches in accordance with Rule 11.
10. Teams that do not return or complete the Respect Section on the Team Marks /Respect Report Google Form shall only receive half of the points awarded to them for that match.
11. Teams from which the opposition have not completed the Respect Section of the Team Marks /Respect Report Google Form, shall receive full point for that match, unless both Teams do not return scores when they shall receive nil (0) points each. Walk over matches are not counted towards the Respect Award System.
12. Players, Managers or supporters shall deduct points for the following offences.
  - (i) Losing control of temper.
  - (ii) Arguing with the Referee / questioning the Referee's decision.
  - (iii) Criticising players' performances (from their own Team or the opposition).
  - (iv) Shouting abuse or Encouraging unfair play.
  - (v) Failure to show respect to the opposition i.e. not apologising after 'putting in a hard tackle'.

### Marking System

13. In order to bring in more consistency to the marking on the scorecards, we have developed a marking system. Each category is still out of 100 with the marking required as follows:

1-19	20-39	40-69	70-89	90-100
Very poor	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent

Team's Whole Game Systems infringements for Cautions, Sending offs and Misconduct will receive a penalty of minus twenty points (-20) for each Caution, minus forty points (-40) for each Sending off and minus fifty points (-50) for each Misconduct.

After each fixture, the Team Manager or Team Administrator are responsible for completing their Team Match /Respect Report on the EBFA Goggle Forms so that the scores can be calculated and published. Each Team's marks shall be completed by Monday by 22:00 hours for Saturday matches and Tuesday by 22:00 Hours for Sunday matches. Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

## Appendix C - Procedure for Verification of Player Registration Identity Cards

Player Registration Identity cards are issued by the League to ensure that the player is a bona fide member of their Club/Team and are playing at the appropriate age group.

The Competition only approves the following three (3) procedures for the verification of Player Registration Identity cards before the commencement of the match:

1. Players are issued with their Registration Identity cards and as a Team presents them to the opposition Manager. The opposition Manager collects the cards from each player and returns all the cards to the last player, who returns them to their own Manager. Note – This is the East Berks Football Alliance preferred method for the verification of Player Registration Identity cards.
2. Within the penalty area of the Team being verified there shall only be the Team to be verified and the two (2) Managers and a Management Committee Official if present. The Team Manager of the players to be verified shall issue each player with their respective Identity Card. Each Player then presents their card to the opposition Manager, who collects each card and returns them to the opposite Manager after receiving all Cards.
3. Within the penalty area of the Team being verified there shall only be the Team to be verified and the two (2) Managers and a Management Committee official if present. The Team Manager of the Team players to be verified shall give their card to the opposition Manager. The Team Manager of the Team players to be verified shall then call forward each player in card order for verification. The verifying Manager shall never be calling any of the opposition players' names. At the end of the process the cards are returned.

At no time shall the players being verified be lined up in an identity style line up.

Failure to produce a player's League Player Registration ID Card renders that player ineligible to have played in that match, unless the missing card procedure is completed. Form is available on the Leagues website and Managers should keep a copy in their match kit bag.

A missing card form must be completed by Team Manager of team which cannot present their card and handed to opposition manager who should send form to their Divisional Secretary. If either team's player registration cards are missing, this form or a paper substitute (Player's full names and Date of Birth) must be completed before the match shall start. No form and the match will be void. Only players named on the team sheet shall be allowed to play in that match. The Referee and opposition manager must be informed of any player or players that may be arriving late. However, any player arriving more than 15 minutes after the commencement of the game shall not be eligible to take part in that match in any capacity i.e. as a player or substitute. And, no game shall be held up for the arrival of a late player or players.

Before the late player enters the field of play, the player should present their player registration card to the opposition manager, failure to do so will make the player ineligible to play in the match. Before the player is substituted onto the field of play, the referee must be reminded of the late arrival, so the referee can check the player equipment before they participate in the match.

## Appendix D - Child Protection/Welfare

1. Any act, statement, conduct or other matter, which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children, shall constitute behaviour, which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.
2. In these Regulations the expression "Offence" shall mean any one or more of the offences contained in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes The County Association and/or League believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.
3. Upon receipt by The League of:
  - (i) Notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence; or
  - (ii) Notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, Social Services or any other authority relating to an Offence; or
  - (iii) Any other information which causes the League reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then the League shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
4. In reaching its determination as to whether an order under Regulation 3 shall be made The League shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:
  - (i) Whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm;
  - (ii) Whether the matters are of a serious nature;
  - (iii) Whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by The League or any other
5. The period of an order referred to in 3 above shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge under The Rules of the League or any Offence is decided or brought to an end.
6. Where an order is imposed on an individual under Regulation 3 above, The League shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of the League against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.
7. Where a person is convicted, or is made the subject of a caution in respect of an Offence, that shall constitute a breach of the Rules of the League and The League shall have the power to order the suspension of the person from all or any specific football activity for such a period (including indefinitely) and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
8. For the purposes of these Regulations, The League shall act through its Management Committee or any Committee or Sub-Committee thereof, including the Board.
9. Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or any Club with which he is associated as soon as reasonably practicable
10. All member Clubs shall have to inform the League of the contact details of their Child Protection/Welfare Officer and their relevant qualifications.

## Appendix E - Policy for Postponing Matches

The League policy regarding postponing matches is intended to be fair to all parties whilst avoiding potential fixture backlogs causing problems at the end of the season.

All Teams entering the Competition have an obligation to maintain a viable squad which is capable of fulfilling all its fixtures.

Matches that cannot be fulfilled for reasons of unsuitable pitches shall always be postponed and rearranged for the first free fixture date available for both Teams.

To determine the number of available players, Teams shall draw upon the full number of players that are registered with the League for that Team.

The minimum number of players for starting a match is

### **Mini-Soccer - 5v5 football**

Four (4) is the minimum number of players required to constitute a Team for a Competition match at the time of the kick off.

### **Mini-Soccer - 7v7 football**

five (5) is the minimum number of players required to constitute a Team for a Competition match at the time of the kick off.

### **Youth - 9v9 football**

Six (6) is the minimum number of players required to constitute a Team for a Competition match at the time of the kick off.

### **Youth - 11v11 football**

Seven (7) is the minimum number of players required to constitute a Team for a Competition match at the time of the kick off.

### **Open Age U21 - 11v11 football**

Seven (7) is the minimum number of players required to constitute a Team for a Competition match at the time of the kick off.

For reasons of child welfare, it is at the Manager's discretion to play with a Team of less than

5 players for Mini-Soccer - 5v5 Football

7 players for Mini-Soccer - 7v7 Football

9 players for Youth - 9v9 Football

11 players for Youth - 11v11 Football

No Team shall be obliged to play a match if the size of the Team at the start of the match would comprise less than 5 players (5v5), 7 players (7v7), 9 Players (9v9) and 11 players (11v11). Although the Team is not obliged to play the match it is not necessarily entitled to postpone the match and unfulfilled fixtures may result in fines.

For Mini-Soccer 5v5 and 7v7 matches if three (3) or more players are unavailable due to school activities then a Team is entitled to postpone a match. If only one (1) or two (2) players are unavailable due to school activities, then the Team is not entitled to postpone a match. All players that are unavailable due to school activities shall be backed up by written evidence from the school head teacher. Failure to provide such evidence before the originally scheduled date of the match shall result in the trophy event matches being awarded to the opposition.

For 9v9 matches if four (4) or more players are unavailable due to school activities then a Team is entitled to postpone a match. If only one (1), two (2), or three (3) players are unavailable due to school activities then the Team is not entitled to postpone a match. All players that are unavailable due to school activities shall be backed up by written evidence from the school head teacher. Failure to provide such evidence before the originally scheduled date of the match shall result in the match being awarded to the opposition as a 3 – 0 win at U12s. Trophy event matches being awarded to the opposition.

For 11v11 matches if five (5) or more players are unavailable due to school activities then a Team is entitled to postpone a match. If only one (1), two (2), three (3) or four (4) players are unavailable due to school activities then the Team is not entitled to postpone a match. All players that are unavailable due to school activities shall be backed up by written evidence from the school head teacher. Failure to provide such evidence before the originally scheduled date of the match shall result in the match being awarded to the opposition as a 3 – 0 win. Section matches at U13 shall not awarded.

If the size of a Team is reduced below the above limits because players are unavailable due to injury, illness, holidays, other sporting event or shopping etc then the match can only be postponed with the agreement of both the opposition Manager and the Divisional Secretary. If the opposition Manager or the Divisional Secretary does not agree to a postponement, then the match is awarded as a 3 – 0 win to the opposition.

A Team cannot elect to concede a match. If the opposition agrees to a postponement, then the fixture shall be fulfilled on the first free fixture date available for both Teams, with the agreement of the Section/Divisional Secretary.

If a match is postponed and agreed by the Section/Divisional Secretary to be rescheduled, then the rearranged match shall be scheduled for the next free fixture date that is available to both Teams. Any further postponement regarding the rearranged fixture shall be decided without taking any of the circumstances of the original fixture postponement into consideration. Opposition Managers shall consider this point when agreeing to postpone a match and if there is any doubt then they shall not agree to the original postponement.

An available fixture date is any date in the League calendar designated for League or trophy event matches.

To accommodate rearranged fixtures, the Teams shall keep all future fixture dates to the end of the season available.

No match shall be postponed if there are no available fixture dates for a rearranged match before the end of the season.

For any match that is defaulted and awarded by EBFA Rules and Regulation to the opposition is a 3 - 0 win to the opposition and the defaulting Team may be fined in accordance with our Rules. Trophy Event matches are only normally rescheduled for Match Not Played due to Inclement Weather conditions or teams scheduled in Parent County FA Cup Competitions.

#### **Examples - 7v7 Format**

Q1. A Team has ten (10) registered players and three (3) players are on holiday.

A1. The Team has seven (7) available players and shall fulfil their fixture.

Q2. A Team has ten (10) registered players and four (4) players are on holiday.

A2. The Team has six (6) available players. The Team can elect to play the fixture, but the match can only be postponed with the agreement of the opposition Manager and the Divisional Secretary. If the opposition Manager or the Divisional Secretary does not agree to a postponement, then the match as a section match can be referred to EBFA Rules and Regs as unfulfilled and defaulting team charged, or if match is a trophy event match, then match is awarded to the opposition as a 3 – 0 win and referred to EBFA Rules and Regs as unfulfilled and defaulting team charged.

Q3. A Team has ten (10) registered players and three (3) players are unavailable due to school activities.

A3. The Team can elect to play the fixture or can request that the match be postponed and played at the next fixture date available for both Teams, but the match can only be postponed with the agreement of the opposition Manager and the Divisional Secretary. If the opposition Manager or the Divisional Secretary does not agree to a postponement, then the match as a section match can be referred to EBFA Rules and Regs as unfulfilled and defaulting team charged, or if match is a trophy event match, then match is awarded to the opposition as a 3 – 0 win and referred to EBFA Rules and Regs as unfulfilled and defaulting team charged.

Q4. A Team has twelve (12) registered players and three (3) players are unavailable due to school activities.

A4. The Team can elect to play the fixture or can request that the match be postponed and played at the next fixture date available for both Teams, but the match can only be postponed with the agreement of the opposition Manager and the Divisional Secretary. If the opposition Manager or the Divisional Secretary does not agree to a postponement, then the match as a section match can be referred to EBFA Rules and Regs as unfulfilled and defaulting team charged, or if match is a trophy event match, then match is awarded to the opposition as a 3 – 0 win and referred to EBFA Rules and Regs as unfulfilled and defaulting team charged.

Q5. A Team has ten (10) registered players and two (2) players are unavailable due to school activities and two (2) players are on holiday.

A5. The Team has six (6) available players. The Team can elect to play the fixture, but the match can only be postponed with the agreement of the opposition Manager and the Divisional Secretary. If the opposition Manager or the Divisional Secretary does not agree to a postponement, then the match as a section match can be referred to EBFA Rules and Regs as unfulfilled and defaulting team charged, or if match is a trophy event match, then match is awarded to the opposition as a 3 – 0 win and referred to EBFA Rules and Regs as unfulfilled and defaulting team charged.



Q6. A Team has eight (8) registered players and two (2) players are unavailable due to school activities.

A6. The Team has six (6) available players. The Team can elect to play the fixture, but the match can only be postponed with the agreement of the opposition Manager and the Divisional Secretary. If the opposition Manager or the Divisional Secretary does not agree to a postponement, then the match as a section match can be referred to EBFA Rules and Regs as unfulfilled and defaulting team charged, or if match is a trophy event match, then match is awarded to the opposition as a 3 – 0 win and referred to EBFA Rules and Regs as unfulfilled and defaulting team charged.

Q7. A Team has ten (10) registered players and five (5) players are on holiday.

A7. Only five (5) players are available. The Team does not have enough players to play the fixture, but the match can only be postponed with the agreement of the opposition Manager and the Divisional Secretary. If the opposition Manager or the Divisional Secretary does not agree to a postponement, then the match as a section match can be referred to EBFA Rules and Regs as unfulfilled and defaulting team charged, or if match is a trophy event match, then match is awarded to the opposition as a 3 – 0 win and referred to EBFA Rules and Regs as unfulfilled and defaulting team charged.

### **Examples 11v11 Format**

Q1. A Team has fourteen (14) registered players and three (3) players are on holiday.

A1. The Team has eleven (11) available players and shall fulfil their fixture.

Q2. A Team has fourteen (14) registered players and four (4) players are on holiday.

A2. The Team has ten (10) available players. The Team can elect to play the fixture but the match can only be postponed with the agreement of the opposition Manager and the Divisional Secretary. If the opposition Manager or the Divisional Secretary does not agree to a postponement, then the match is awarded to the opposition as a win by EBFA Rules and Regs.

Q3. A Team has sixteen (16) registered players and five (5) players are unavailable due to school activities.

A3. The Team can elect to play the fixture or can request that the match be postponed and played at the next fixture date available for both Teams, subject to 7 days' notice and support school documentation.

Q4. A Team has twenty (20) registered players and five (5) players are unavailable due to school activities.

A4. The Team can elect to play the fixture or can request that the match be postponed and played at the next fixture date available for both Teams, subject to 7 days' notice and support school documentation.

Q5. A Team has sixteen (16) registered players and four (4) players are unavailable due to school activities and two (2) players are on holiday.

A5. The Team has ten (10) available players. The Team can elect to play the fixture with ten (10) players but the match can only be postponed with the agreement of the opposition Manager and the Divisional Secretary. If the opposition Manager or the Divisional Secretary does not agree to a postponement, then the defaulting Team shall not be compelled to play with less than eleven (11) players and if the match is not played then the match shall be awarded to the opposition as a 3-0 win by EBFA Rules and Regs.

Q6. A Team has fourteen (14) registered players and four (4) players are unavailable due to school activities.

A6. The Team has ten (10) available players. The Team can elect to play the fixture with ten (10) players but the match can only be postponed with the agreement of the opposition Manager and the Divisional Secretary. If the opposition Manager or the Divisional Secretary does not agree to a postponement, then the defaulting Team shall not be compelled to play with less than eleven (11) players and if the match is not played then the match shall be awarded to the opposition as a 3 – 0 win by EBFA Rules and Regs.

Q7. A Team has twelve (12) registered players and four (4) players are on holiday.

A7. Only eight (8) players are available. The Team does not have enough players to play the fixture but the match can only be postponed with the agreement of the opposition Manager and the Divisional Secretary. If the opposition Manager or the Divisional Secretary does not agree to a postponement, then the match shall be awarded to the opposition as a 3-0 win by EBFA Rules and Regs.

## Appendix F - Appointment of Match Officials

Under normal circumstances the Home Team shall be responsible for arranging a Referee for the match. The name of the Referee shall be notified to the Away Team at the time of notification of venue and kick-off.

Whenever possible the Home Team shall arrange for a Qualified and Registered Referee to officiate the match. A Registered Referee is a Referee who is currently registered as a Referee with a County FA and who is in possession of a Referees Registration Card, wearing a Regulation Referee jersey with the FA or County FA badge and registered with the EBFA Referee Secretary. Referee's which have taken a Football Association Referee Course and are completing their qualifying matches shall be considered as a Qualified and Registered Referee.

If the Home Team arranges a Registered Referee to officiate the match, then the Away Team shall accept the appointment of the Referee.

If the Home Team is unable arrange a Registered Referee to officiate the match, then the Home Team shall request the Away Team to arrange a Registered Referee. If the Away Team arranges a Registered Referee to officiate the match, then the Home Team shall accept the appointment of Referee.

If neither the Home Team nor the Away Team can arrange a Registered Referee, then both Teams shall agree upon a responsible person to officiate the match. A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee. Away Team must confirm the credentials of the Referee before the match starts.

The minimum uniform for a Registered Referee is a Regulation Referees jersey with FA or County FA badge. There is no requirement to wear shorts or socks.

A Qualified Referee is not a Registered Referee unless meeting the criteria for a Registered Referee described above.

An appointed Referee or a mutually agreed Referee is entitled to the appropriate fee. The Home Team shall pay the full fee to the Referee prior to kick-off and the Away Team shall pay their share to the Home Team prior to kick off.

From Mini-Soccer U7 through to Youth 11 v11 U18 and U21 it is the recommendation of the League that all matches are Refereed by a Registered Referee.

For Mini-Soccer U10 it is highly recommended that the matches are Refereed by a Registered Referee. A suitable appointment would be a young newly qualified Referee who is seeking to gain their first experiences of Refereeing.

From Youth U11 upwards it is strongly recommended that the matches are Refereed by a Registered Referee. Note that young Referees shall be at least two (2) years older than the players participating in the match. Thus, a Referee of fourteen (14) years can officiate matches up to U12.

At all age groups Mini-Soccer U7 through to Youth U18 and U21 if it is not possible to arrange a Registered Referee then with the agreement of both Teams it is acceptable for a responsible person to be the Referee for the match.

If a Team Manager or coach or a player's parent is to be the Referee for a match, then it is courteous to notify the opposing Team of the Referees connections.

All Registered Referees and responsible persons who are to Referee matches in the East Berks Football Alliance shall be registered with the Referees Secretary. This a simple procedure whereby the Referees Secretary is notified of the Referees Name, Date of Birth, Address, Telephone, Number and Email Address. If the Referee is a Registered Referee, then Referee Qualification Level and Referee Registration number shall also be stated. Notification can be by telephone, text, email or other communication at any time prior to kick-off but Referee shall register these details via the [www.gotfootball.co.uk](http://www.gotfootball.co.uk) web portal. This information is required so that the League can contact the Referee about any incidents that may have occurred in the match.

Any person appointed as a Referee and regardless of whether the person is a qualified or a Registered Referee has the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee and as such shall make appropriate use of the Yellow and Red cards. Any use of the Yellow or Red cards or any incident of misconduct by a player, Team official or spectator shall be reported to the League Secretary and to the appropriate County FA. Help and guidance for submitting reports shall be provided by the League Secretary.

Match Officials will be paid their fees by the home Club before the Competition Match, unless otherwise ordered by the Management Committee. The costs for match Officials shall be shared equally by both Teams. The Away Team shall pay their share of the costs to the Home Team prior to the commencement of the match. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff [23-E].

Club Officials who Referee or are Assistant Referees of a match shall refrain from coaching.

# Appendix G - Policy for Recording Images of Players

## Introduction

The East Berks Football Alliance is committed to providing a safe environment for children/young people under the age of eighteen (18). Implicit in this is the commitment to ensure that all publications, resources and media represent participants appropriately and with due respect. The points outlined in this policy you shall be putting in place the best possible practice to protect children and young people wherever photographs or recorded images are taken and stored.

## Key Concerns

The key concerns contained within this policy regarding the use of images of children/young people relate to:

- (i) The possible identification of children when a photograph is accompanied by personal information
- (ii) The inappropriate use, adaptation or copying of images for use on child pornography websites
- (iii) The taking of inappropriate photographs or recorded images of youngsters.

## Recording Images of Children/Young People

There have been concerns about the risks posed directly and indirectly to children and young people through the use of photographs on sport web sites and other publications.

Firstly, Photographs can be used as a means of identifying children when they are accompanied with personal information, for example: "This is a member of the Anytown Mini-Soccer Football Club who likes Atomic Kitten". This information can make a child vulnerable to an individual who may wish to start to "groom" that child for abuse.

Secondly the content of the photo can be used or adapted for inappropriate use. There is evidence of this adapted material finding its way onto child pornography sites.

## Guidelines for Recording Images

You shall ensure that images of a young person, who is under a court order, are NOT recorded or published.

All children featured in recordings shall be appropriately dressed with outer clothing garments covering their torso from at least the bottom of their neck to their thighs, (i.e. a minimum of vest/shirt and shorts)

The photograph shall ideally focus on the activity. Where possible images of children/young people shall be recorded in small groups (the group may comprise any combination of adults and children)

Any instances of the use of inappropriate images shall be reported to The Management Committee.

A Club's, Official's, Managers and Coaches shall still be allowed to use video equipment as a legitimate coaching aid. However, footballers and their parents/carers shall be aware that this is part of the coaching programme and care shall be taken in the storing of such films and video.

Child protection and best practice

## Guidelines for Publishing Images

If the child is named, avoid using their photograph

If a photograph is used, avoid naming the young person or use their first name only. Personal details of children such as an email address, Home address and telephone numbers shall never be revealed on a website

Ask for the child's permission to use their image. This ensures that they are aware of the way the image is to be used to represent the sport. A Parent/Carer and Child Permission Form is the best way of achieving this and can be done at the beginning of the season (Club Membership Form)

Ask for parental/carers permission to use an image of a young person. This ensures that parents/carers are aware of the way the image of their child is representing the sport. A Parent/Carer and Child Permission Form is the best way of achieving this and can be done at the beginning of the season (Club Membership Form)

In order to guard against the possibility of a young person under a court order appearing on a website, the simultaneous streaming of images onto a website is not recommended. Delayed streaming also provides an opportunity for the editing of inappropriate clips (e.g. disarranged clothing). If the video/film clips are delivered from your own server that material can be downloaded. It is therefore recommended that you use an independent server so that material cannot be accessed, copied or downloaded

Think about the level of consideration that you give to the use of images in all publications, for example the processes used in choosing photographs for a publicity brochure for the Club. Apply an increased level of consideration to the images of youngsters used on websites. Simple technology features such as watermarking may dissuade third parties from using or attempting to access controlled imagery

Try to take photographs that represent the broad range of youngsters participating safely in football.

This might include:

- Boys and girls
- Minority ethnic communities
- A range of clothing e.g. tracksuit/jogging trousers
- Girls with hair covered e.g. baseball cap or scarf
- Disabled people
- Glasses if not actually playing at the time
- Shin pads shall be on if they are recorded playing
- Jewellery shall be removed in all images

### **Guidelines for Use of Photographic Filming Equipment at East Berks Football Alliance Football Events**

All Managers shall agree before the start of the event about the use of photographic filming equipment.

This means that if one Manager does not agree to the use of photographic equipment at the EBFA match, then both shall ensure their Team and supporters do not use photographic equipment at the match.

Failure to follow this policy shall be referred to the Management Committee. Clubs, players or persons found guilty of breaches shall be charged by the League for bringing the League into Disrepute and Failure to comply with this Rule shall result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff and/or may be dealt with further by the Management Committee of this League.

There is evidence that some people have used sporting events as an opportunity to take inappropriate photographs or film footage of young and disabled sportspeople. While this might be rare in football you still have a duty of care to young people to ensure that this risk is as small as possible.

By taking some simple steps you shall be reducing that risk.

If you are commissioning professional photographers or inviting the press to a football activity or event it is important to ensure they are clear about your expectations of them in relation to child protection.

Provide a clear brief about what is considered appropriate in terms of content and behaviour.

Inform participants and parents that a photographer shall be in attendance at an event and ensure they consent to both the taking and publication of films or photographs.

Do not allow unsupervised access to footballers or one to one photo sessions at events.

Do not approve/allow photo sessions outside the event or at a footballer's Home.

Parents and spectators might also wish to take photographs or record their children participating at the event:

If parents or other spectators are intending to photograph or video at an event, they shall also be made aware of your expectations

In addition:

Participants and parents shall be informed that if they have concerns about inappropriate or intrusive photography these shall be reported to the event organiser or official and recorded in the same manner as any other child protection concern

Event organisers shall approach and challenge any person taking photographs who has not registered with them. They might need to refer to the local police force if this person continues to record images

### **Summary**

Child protection is about putting in place the best possible practices and procedures; this shall protect not only the child but also you, the adult, in football.

# Appendix H - Parents Code of Conduct

By supporting your Child, what can children who play in the League expect from adults?

## **CHILDREN CAN EXPECT ADULTS NOT TO:**

- Attempt to 'coach' or 'manipulate' the players while they are playing
- Shout, swear, become violent or use sarcasm
- Ignore Children who need help
- Attempt to 'Referee' the game by appealing for free kicks, etc.
- Assess players by their incompetence.
- Abuse or argue with the Referee or assistant Referees.

## **BUT CHILDREN CAN EXPECT ADULTS TO:**

- Praise effort and performance more than results
- Look for aspects to praise in players who might not otherwise get attention
- Give them clear examples of excellent behaviour
- Show consistency
- Assess players with regard to their skills and attitudes
- Praise good behaviour quickly to show adults value it
- Help, encourage and support
- Learn the Laws of Association Football and East Berks Football Alliance Rules

## **REMEMBER: CHILDREN DO NOT MEAN TO MAKE MISTAKES**

The Team Officials shall be held responsible for the behaviour of supporters and any other persons involved with the fixture.

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

# Appendix I - Players Code of Conduct

**By Playing in the Association, Players are expected to agree to the following Players Code of Conduct.**

- Players shall always play by the Rules of the game and within the spirit of sportsmanship and fair play.
- The Referees decision shall always be accepted, and match Officials respected at ALL times.
- Foul and abusive language shall not be tolerated under any circumstances, and every player is expected to control their temper at all times.
- All Team mates, coaches, spectators, match Officials, and players and Officials of opposing Clubs shall be treated with respect at all times.
- Players are expected to play to the best of their ability and within the 'Spirit of the Game'.
- After every game, opposition players and match Officials shall be applauded and thanked.

**REMEMBER: Players shall always accept Winning or Losing equally**

The Team Officials shall be held responsible for the behaviour of players involved with the fixture.

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

## Appendix J - The Responsible Football Coach Code of Conduct

1. Coaches shall respect the rights, dignity and worth of each and every person and treat each equally within the context of the sport.
2. Coaches shall place the well-being and safety of each player above all other considerations, including the Development of performance.
3. Coaches shall adhere to all guidelines laid down by the Rules of the League and the Football Association.
4. Coaches shall develop an appropriate working relationship with each player based on mutual trust and respect.
5. Coaches shall not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward.
6. Coaches shall encourage and guide players to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
7. Coaches shall ensure that the activities they direct or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of players.
8. Coaches shall, at the outset, clarify with the player (and, where appropriate, their parents) exactly what is expected of them and also what they are entitled to expect from their coach.
9. Coaches shall cooperate fully with other specialists (e.g. Other coaches, Officials, sports scientists, doctors, physiotherapists) in the best interests of the player.
10. Coaches shall always promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. Respect/Fair Play) and never condone violations of the Laws of the Game, behaviour contrary to the spirit of the Laws of the Game or relevant Rules and Regulations or the use of prohibited substances or techniques.
11. Coaches shall consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance.

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



## Appendix K – Communications Policy

When sending any communication relating the League please limit each communication to a single subject and be sure to state as clearly as possible the Age Group and Division, the name of the Club and the name of the Team. Also state your full name, your official capacity in relation to the Team or Club and your full contact details including email, telephone and postal address. This information shall greatly assist the Management Committee in carrying out the business of the League.

Any communication such as a telephone message, letter, fax, email or text which is sent in relation to a time critical event such as match arrangements or time of kick-off or for the postponement of a fixture shall only be considered received if a positive acknowledgement is received from the recipient.

When sending a time critical message, the sender shall always add the text “Please confirm that you have received this message” to the end of the message and if no confirmation is received from the recipient then every reasonable effort shall be made to deliver the communication by alternative means.

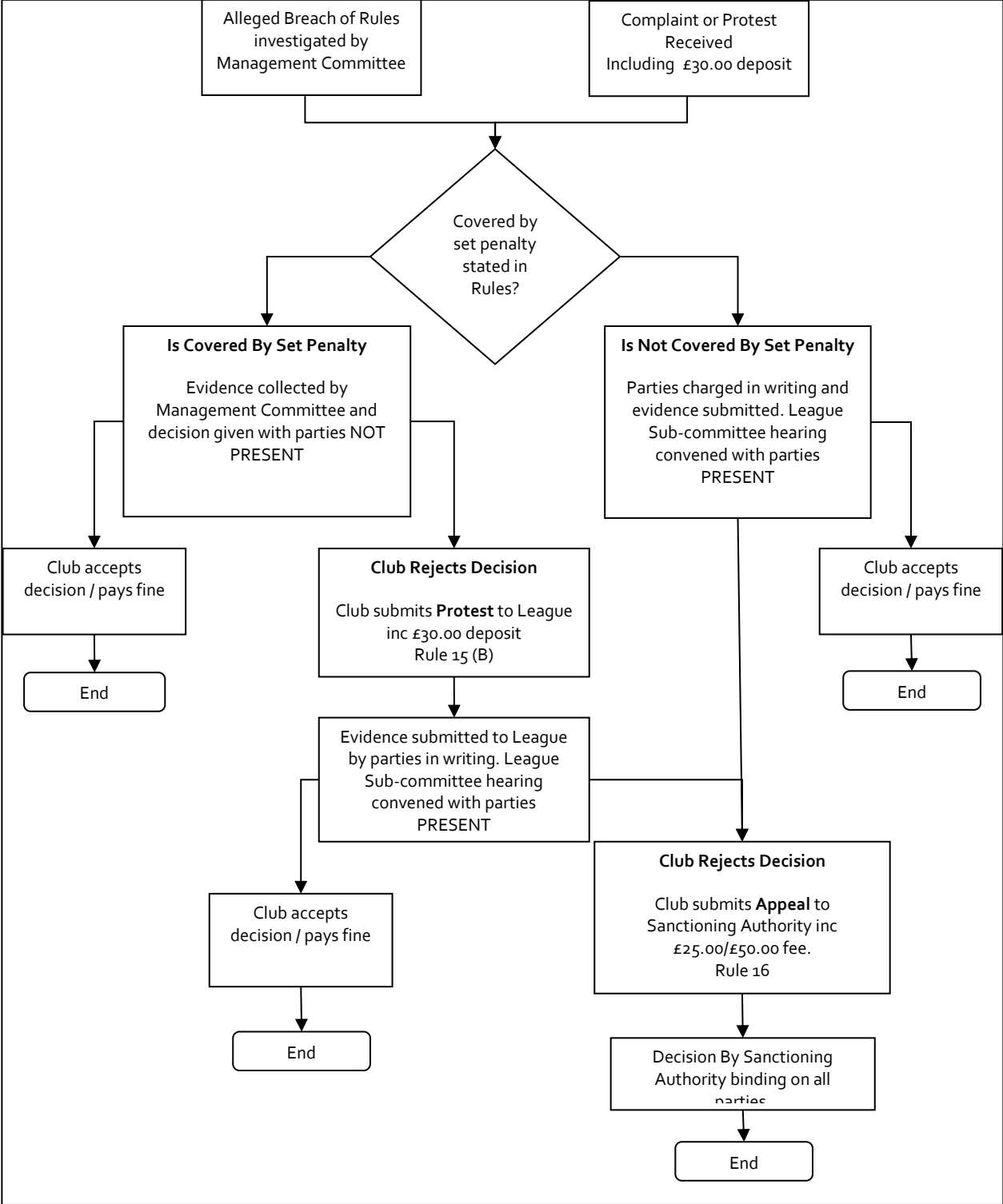
### Summary

- One subject per message
- State Age Group and Division, Club, Team and date
- Who are you and what is your connection to the Team
- Please confirm that you have received this message

# Appendix L – Advice on Complaints, Protests, and Appeals

## Protests, Complaints and Appeals Procedure

The flow-chart below describes how the process is conducted by the League.



## **How to Submit a Complaint to The League**

A Club shall use the complaint procedure to bring a grievance to the attention of the Management Committee. All communication shall be between the Club Secretary and the League Secretary.

The complaint procedure shall also be used by the Management Committee to deal with any alleged breach of Rules. In this case no deposit is required.

Except in cases of alleged off field misconduct a complaint shall be lodged with the League Secretary within three (3) working days of the incident and shall be accompanied by a deposit of £30.00, transferred to the League bank account.

In cases of alleged off field misconduct of players, Team and Club Officials and spectators there is no time limit and no deposit required.

It is acceptable to email the League Secretary within three (3) working days and to send a cheque to arrive as soon as possible thereafter. Do not send cash.

If the complaint is upheld in favour of the Club making the complaint, then the deposit shall be returned.

If according to the Rules the complaint can be dealt with using a fixed penalty, then the matter shall be considered at a future meeting of the Management Committee. The Management Committee shall collect evidence and the parties to the complaint shall not be present at the meeting when the decision is made.

A Club not agreeing to a decision of the Management Committee shall submit a protest according the procedure below.

If according to the Rules the complaint cannot be dealt with using a fixed penalty, then a Sub-committee shall be convened. The parties concerned shall submit all evidence in writing and the parties shall be invited to make a brief statement at the Sub-committee hearing.

A Club not agreeing to a decision of a Sub-committee shall submit an appeal according to the procedure below.

## **How to Submit a Protest to The League**

A Club shall use the protest procedure to request the Management Committee to reconsider an earlier decision of the Management Committee. All communication shall be between the Club Secretary and the League Secretary.

A protest shall be lodged with the League Secretary within three (3) working days of the decision being communicated and shall be accompanied by a deposit of £30.00, transferred to the League bank account.

It is acceptable to email the League Secretary within three (3) working days and request League bank details for the fee to be deposited. Do not send Cheques/Cash.

If the complaint is upheld in favour of the Club making the complaint, then the deposit shall be returned.

A Sub-committee shall be convened, and the parties concerned shall submit all evidence in writing and the parties shall be invited to make a brief statement at the Sub-committee hearing.

A Club not agreeing to a decision of a Sub-committee shall submit an appeal to Berks & Bucks FA according the procedure below.

## **How to Submit an Appeal to Berks & Bucks FA**

A Club shall use the appeal procedure to challenge a decision of a Sub-committee of the League.

An appeal shall be lodged with Berks & Bucks FA within fourteen (14) working days of the Sub-Committee decision being communicated and shall be accompanied by an Appeal Fee of £50.00 (Minor and Youth Clubs £25.00).

The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

## **Please Consider the Following**

Half the Teams in the League want to ignore all the Rules whilst the other half of Team want to stick to the letter of every Rule. Many Teams seem to adopt whichever opinion suits them best at the time. The Management Committee is expected to sort this situation out.

Complaints and protests are very difficult for the Management Committee to deal with and the matter is unlikely to be resolved to the satisfaction of either parties or the Management Committee.

In any grievance situation there is often a fault on both sides which can often counteract the complaint.

All complaints shall be submitted via your Club Secretary.

All complaints shall be submitted to the League Secretary and League Chairman.

When submitting evidence be brief and concentrate on the main complaint and only mention facts relevant to the complaint. Only mention what you saw or heard with your own eyes and ears and do not mention anything that you found out after the event. An exception is that an adult may directly relate what was said by a player or child.

Do not make general moral statements regarding behaviour considered to be inappropriate in the presence of children. The League is aware of what is appropriate and inappropriate behaviour and is also aware that all the players are children.

Do not make general statements regarding your many years of previous experience involved in children's football as this is not evidence and is not relevant.

Do not make statements about the weather or the distance and travelling time to the match as this is not evidence and is not relevant.

Do not make statements describing the obliging way in which you dealt with a similar situation last week so you expect the same courtesy to be offered to you on this occasion. The fact that you allowed the opposition to postpone their previous fixtures does not mean that they are obliged to postpone your fixture now that you are short of players.

The Management Committee shall consider all complains and where necessary shall assist with submitting a complaint to Berks & Bucks FA.

Finally, be aware that complaints and protests can take a considerable length of time to resolve.

## Format of Witness Statements

Complete a Witness Statement, using the EBFA Witness Statement template for each person providing a witness statement relating to the Complaint.

<Today's Date>

To whom it may concern

I was present at the EBFA match U18 Div 1 Trumpton Town U18 Reds v Camberwick U18 Green played on 31/12/2022

I am the parent/guardian/coach of Barney McGrew who plays for Trumpton Town U18 Reds.

During the match I saw a player/parent/coach of Trumpton Town U18 Reds, whom I later identified as being called Windy Miller, do something very very bad. I heard another player/parent/coach from Camberwick U18 Green say something very very bad.

Your sincerely

<Signed>

<Full Name>

<Address>

<Telephone Number>

<Email>

<Date of Birth>

## Appendix M – Age Related Registration Bands 2023/24

<b>U07s (5v5) ( Mixed Gender ) <sup>β</sup></b>	Sep16 Oct16 Nov16 Dec16 Jan17 Feb17 Mar17 Apr17 May17 Jun17 Jul17 Aug17 βSep16 βOct17 βNov17 βDec17 βJan18 βFeb18 βMar18 βApr18 βMay18
<b>U08s (5v5) ( Mixed Gender )</b>	Sep15 Oct15 Nov15 Dec15 Jan16 Feb16 Mar16 Apr16 May16 Jun16 Jul16 Aug16 Sep16 Oct16 Nov16 Dec16 Jan17 Feb17 Mar17 Apr17 May17 Jun17 Jul17 Aug17
<b>U09s (7v7) ( Mixed Gender )</b>	Sep14 Oct14 Nov14 Dec14 Jan15 Feb15 Mar15 Apr15 May15 Jun15 Jul15 Aug15 Sep15 Oct15 Nov15 Dec15 Jan16 Feb16 Mar16 Apr16 May16 Jun16 Jul16 Aug16
<b>U10s (7v7) ( Mixed Gender )</b>	Sep13 Oct13 Nov13 Dec13 Jan14 Feb14 Mar14 Apr14 May14 Jun14 Jul14 Aug14 Sep14 Oct14 Nov14 Dec14 Jan15 Feb15 Mar15 Apr15 May15 Jun15 Jul15 Aug15
<b>U11s (9v9) ( Mixed Gender )</b>	Sep12 Oct12 Nov12 Dec12 Jan13 Feb13 Mar13 Apr13 May13 Jun13 Jul13 Aug13 Sep13 Oct13 Nov13 Dec13 Jan14 Feb14 Mar14 Apr14 May14 Jun14 Jul14 Aug14
<b>U12s (9v9) ( Mixed Gender )</b>	Sep11 Oct11 Nov11 Dec11 Jan12 Feb12 Mar12 Apr12 May12 Jun12 Jul12 Aug12 Sep12 Oct12 Nov12 Dec12 Jan13 Feb13 Mar13 Apr13 May13 Jun13 Jul13 Aug13
<b>U13s (11v11) ( Mixed Gender )</b>	Sep10 Oct10 Nov10 Dec10 Jan11 Feb11 Mar11 Apr11 May11 Jun11 Jul11 Aug11 Sep11 Oct11 Nov11 Dec11 Jan12 Feb12 Mar12 Apr12 May12 Jun12 Jul12 Aug12
<b>U14s (11v11) ( Mixed Gender )</b>	Sep09 Oct09 Nov09 Dec09 Jan10 Feb10 Mar10 Apr10 May10 Jun10 Jul10 Aug10 Sep10 Oct10 Nov10 Dec10 Jan11 Feb11 Mar11 Apr11 May11 Jun11 Jul11 Aug11
<b>U15s (11v11) ( Mixed Gender )</b>	Sep08 Oct08 Nov08 Dec08 Jan09 Feb09 Mar09 Apr09 May09 Jun09 Jul09 Aug09 Sep09 Oct09 Nov09 Dec09 Jan10 Feb10 Mar10 Apr10 May10 Jun10 Jul10 Aug10
<b>U16s (11v11) ( Mixed Gender )</b>	Sep07 Oct07 Nov07 Dec07 Jan08 Feb08 Mar08 Apr08 May08 Jun08 Jul08 Aug08 Sep08 Oct08 Nov08 Dec08 Jan09 Feb09 Mar09 Apr09 May09 Jun09 Jul09 Aug09
<b>U17s (11v11) ( Mixed Gender )</b>	Sep06 Oct06 Nov06 Dec06 Jan07 Feb07 Mar07 Apr07 May07 Jun07 Jul07 Aug07 Sep07 Oct07 Nov07 Dec07 Jan08 Feb08 Mar08 Apr08 May08 Jun08 Jul08 Aug08
<b>U18s (11v11) (Mixed Gender )</b>	Sep05 Oct05 Nov05 Dec05 Jan06 Feb06 Mar06 Apr06 May06 Jun06 Jul06 Aug06 Sep06 Oct06 Nov06 Dec06 Jan07 Feb07 Mar07 Apr07 May07 Jun07 Jul07 Aug07 Sep07 Oct07 Nov07 Dec07 Jan08 Feb08 Mar08 Apr08 May08 Jun08 Jul08 Aug08
<b>U21s (11v11) ( Males Only)</b>	Sep02 Oct02 Nov02 Dec02 Jan03 Feb03 Mar03 Apr03 May03 Jun03 Jul03 Aug03 Sep03 Oct03 Nov03 Dec03 Jan04 Feb04 Mar04 Apr04 May04 Jun04 Jul04 Aug04 Sep04 Oct04 Nov04 Dec04 Jan05 Feb05 Mar05 Apr05 May05 Jun05 Jul05 Aug05 Sep05 Oct05 Nov05 Dec05 Jan06 Feb06 Mar06 Apr06 May06 Jun06 Jul06 Aug06 Sep06 Oct06 Nov06 Dec06 Jan07 Feb07 Mar07 Apr07 May07 Jun07 Jul07 Aug07

<sup>β</sup> As soon as children reaches the age of 6 they can be registered to play football at U7s. However, children attaining the age of 6 during the playing season (i.e. after 31 August) may not play up an age group until the following season. i.e. They can only play at U7s only when they reach 6 during the season.

## Appendix N – Constitution of the Competition for the Ensuing Season

The following procedure shall be subject to change each season as circumstances require.

01 May	Club/Team Applications Open on <a href="http://www.gotfootball.co.uk">www.gotfootball.co.uk</a>
31 May	Club/Team Applications Close on <a href="http://www.gotfootball.co.uk">www.gotfootball.co.uk</a>
2nd Week July	AGM - New Club/Team Application Voted on by Member Clubs
1 <sup>st</sup> July	All Teams allocated Team number for season
1 <sup>st</sup> July	Team Application data on <a href="http://www.gotfootball.co.uk">www.gotfootball.co.uk</a> sent to Div Secs
31 <sup>st</sup> July	Deadline for Free Player Registrations
31 <sup>st</sup> July	Deadline for Club to provide League, with County FA Club/Team affiliation confirmation documentation
1 <sup>st</sup> August	Fine Teams which have not registered sufficient players seven (7) for Mini-Soccer, eleven (11) for Youth and eleven (11) for Open Age U21)
1 <sup>st</sup> August	Divisional structures for all age groups sent to Teams – one (1) week consultation period between Div Secs and Teams is now open.
2nd Week August	Final Structure Recommendation by Div Secs published to Clubs/Teams
2nd Week August	Pitch Balancing Completed
2nd Week August	Published Structures on Full-Time and <a href="http://www.eastberksfa.com">www.eastberksfa.com</a> websites including Division, slot number, Home and Away fixtures.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Week September	Pre-Season Meeting – All Clubs/Teams to attend including Constitution Meeting - All Clubs to attend - U10, U12 and U14 to U21 Division by Division Vote to accept Constitution of the Competition For The Ensuing Season. Followed by Player Registration Collection
2 <sup>nd</sup> Week September	Update any published structure changes on GotFootball and <a href="http://www.eastberksfa.com">www.eastberksfa.com</a> websites
2 <sup>nd</sup> Week September	Start of Season (2nd Saturday in September)

The EBFA policy for the size of a Section/Division is U7s to U10s a minimum of eight (8) Teams with ten (10) Teams maximum is U11s to U21s a minimum of ten (10) Teams with twelve (12) Teams maximum - subject to applications in each age group.

After the AGM the EBFA Management Committee is authorised to accept late applications if space is available in the age group.

U12s and U14s to U21s - Policy on the team application to move divisions after the start of the season

1. Teams shall only move divisions in January, after 11th week fixture.
2. Teams shall only be moved if there is an available slot in the division, one below their division.
3. Teams must on average points per game be the bottom team in their Division and must apply to be considered for a move down a division.
4. Results from Sep to Dec shall be removed from system.
5. Teams changing division shall play each team in their new division once before the end of the season.
6. Teams can also apply to move up Divisions, if space is available, again teams moving up divisions shall play each team in their new division once before the end of the season.



# Appendix O – EBFA and The English Football Association/FIFA International Clearance Requirements.

Updated on 30-Aug-20 after emails with theFA Registration Department.

Under EBFA rules and regulations as a new player to your club the player needs to be registered as a fresh player as any data provided by another Club to which he was registered, belongs to the previous Club and is not shared with other Clubs by the league.

The players registration, for players who reach the age of 10 before or after 1<sup>st</sup> September for the current season, on GotFootball that shows the player to be a foreign national (not born in England, show by foreign passport or birth certificate) or has a GBR passport which shows the player was not born in England, it is the League's opinion that as their new player registration to your Club for new/current season, then your Club must complete the due diligence to prove to the League that the player does not require English FA/FIFA International Clearance.

If the player's registration has provided a British passport which demonstrates the player to be a British citizen and they have played affiliated football in another country previously and/or been registered to a Foreign National Association abroad (which includes Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland), then your Club can apply to the English Football Association Registration Department for an exception.

The English Football Association Registration Department can then check their system to see if the English Football Association and/or a Foreign National Association hold a record for the player. If the English Football Association and/or a Foreign National Association finds no record for the player, then the English Football Association would consider this as the player's 1<sup>st</sup> registration with the English Football Association and the English Football Association will be able to prove confirmation that international clearance is not required and the player is free to register with a Club to play football in England.

When this confirmation is shared with the League by the Club, the League would consider that the Club has completed its due diligence to protect the Club and would then allow the League to progress the player's registration to play in East Berks Football Alliance.

If the player's registration has provided a British passport which demonstrates them to be a British citizen and they have NEVER played affiliated football in another country previously and/or been registered to a Foreign National Association abroad (which includes Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland), then your Club can complete the EFA/EBFA procedure below to provide the Club due diligence and would then allow the League to progress the player's registration to play in East Berks Football Alliance.

Self-certification by a Club that a player has been a member of the Club is not due diligence to ensure that the player does not require English FA/FIFA International Clearance.

One method of due diligence is to determine if the player was registered with an English Club for an English League at U7s, U8s, U9s or U10s. A copy of the league's player registration card (@ U7s, U8s, U9s or U10s) would be proof to the EBFA league that due diligence has been completed and allow the player to be registered. Proving that he was registered at U11, U12, U13, U14, U15, U16, U17 or U18 in previous season with another English Club/Team playing in an English League, including EBFA, does NOT prove that the Club/Team or League that he played in went through the English FA/FIFA International Clearance procedure and could mean he was playing illegally under FIFA regulations.

Alternatively, an application will need to be made the English Football Association player registration department, so the English Football Association can provide documentation that the player has English FA/FIFA International Clearance or does not require English FA/FIFA International Clearance.

An email or "Limited exemption provided to The FA by FIFA Players' Status Department" certificate from the English Football Association copied to the League would allow the player to be registered.

Players that register to play in the U18s, after the start of the season, might have turned 18 years of age by the time they try to register as a player. These 18 years of age players, who would have required an English FA/FIFA International Clearance if they had registered before the start of the season, still require an English FA/FIFA International Clearance, but will not need to adhere to FIFA Article 19 (application for minor players). All that would be required is the standard adult English FA/FIFA International Clearance request form and a form of ID be sent to the English FA Player Registration Department. The form can be found via the link <http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/policies/player-registration/international-clearance>.

## EBFA ITC Procedure - ITC Procedure for Player who have a GBR/UK passport, but were born outside of England.

This procedure has been agreed with the registration department of the English Football Association and relates to Players who hold a GBR/UK passport but were not born in England as demonstrated from the Place of Birth on the Passport.

International clearance is required for any player over the age of 10 who is seeking to register for a club in England and has previously been registered for a club abroad (including the other Home Associations of Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland), or who is a foreign national seeking to register for the first time in this country.

It is the responsibility of the club to ensure that they conduct appropriate due diligence to ensure that any player that they wish to sign is registered correctly and in accordance with FIFA's regulations pertaining to international clearance.

This due diligence is verified by the League for players that may require ITC.

Create a Player Record on GotFootball and Complete the Steps 1 to 4, below.

Step No	Player Name	EBFA Player Reg Number	
1	Does the player have GBR/UK passport, but was born outside of England, as demonstrated from the Place of Birth on the Passport?  Mark Yes or No.		
		Yes:- progress to step 2	No:- progress to Step 98.
2	Confirm that player has NEVER played affiliated football outside England and NEVER been registered to a National Association outside England, which includes Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland (Home Associations)?  Mark Yes or No.		
		Yes:- progress to step 3.	No:- progress to step 99
3	Confirm that the Player has NEVER previously held a foreign passport before attaining a GBR/UK passport?  Mark Yes or No.		
		Yes:- progress to step 4.	No:- progress to step 100.
4	Which Town, Country was the Player born in?		
		Enter Country and Town of birth above & progress to step 10.	
10	<p>If Step 1,3 and 4 are ALL "Yes" then</p> <p>Email to <a href="mailto:iannile@hotmail.com">iannile@hotmail.com</a> Subject - Player with GBR/UK Passport - Due Diligence for ITC Exception EBFA Player League.</p> <p>Completed copy of the Above Table Step 1-4.</p> <p>Attach a statement from the Parents/Guardians confirming that the player has: NEVER played affiliated football outside England. NEVER been registered to a Foreign National Association (which includes Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland). NEVER previously held a foreign passport before attaining a GBR/UK passport.</p>		
98	The Club will need to obtain ITC Clearance from the Registration Department of the English Football Association.		
99	The Club needs to present it ITC case to the Registration Department of the English Football Association.		
100	The Club needs to present it ITC case to the Registration Department of the English Football Association, who need to look at these cases individually.		

## Appendix P – Player ID Registration Photo Specification

The Player's Photo uploaded to the EBFA GotFootball system must be a digital Player Passport Style ID Photo taken in the last 3 months:

The main rules for good preparation of the player passport style ID photo is to:

Look straight into the camera

Have a neutral facial expression and be sure your mouth is closed

Do not cover your face.

Have a contrast background on the photo (plain cream or light grey).

Your eyes have to be open.

Face has to be visible and not covered by trophies, sunglasses, glasses frames, tinted glasses, face paint, or hair.

The covering of the head and face has to be reduced. It is not allowed to cover your head (except for medical or religious reasons).

If you wear normal glasses or football glasses, make sure that you do not have reflection or glare on them.

Photo cannot have the 'red eye' effect.

Photo cannot have shadows on the picture.

Photo cannot have watermarks on the picture.

Your passport photo should be in colour, printed, clear, sharp and in focus.

It is also important to have a recent photo (taken within the last 3 months) that is not digitally changed.

In the photo you cannot be in the company of other people or objects.

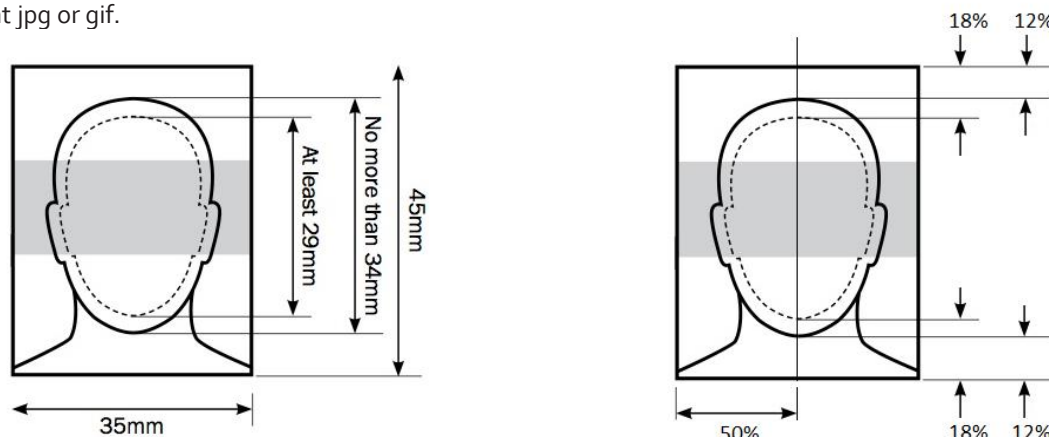
The photo must include your full head and shoulders only.

Tech Spec:

Minimum size of the digital photo is width = 414 pixels (px), and height 571 pixel @ 300 dpi resolution. (if digital photo is larger, please preserve aspect ratio).

The image of your face should be visible from the top of your head to your chin - it must be between 345 pixels and 430 pixels high, based on the above minimum size.

Image format jpg or gif.



**Note: Does the Player ID photo look like the photo in a You're or the Player's Passport (without the water marks)?**

Also –

**Do not cut Photos from Photo of the Team – image resolution quality very poor and photo size will be too small**

**No photo of player on other side of field**

**No photo of player with trophies or medals**

**No photo of player with siblings**

**No photo of player with face paint**

**No photo of player eating a meal**

**No photo of player showing their favourite football shirt**

**No photo of player standing in their favourite football stadium**

**Etc. etc. etc**

**Summary – Photo should be Head and Shoulders of the Player Only!!**

## Appendix Q – GotFootball Player Registration System Error Codes

Detailed below are the Player Registration Error codes used by EBFA on the GotFootball Player Registration System (GF-PRS).

Error Code	Description
F1-23/24 ITC Required (PP-PRT)	This Player could require FA/FIFA International Clearance - Please provide Club ITC Due Diligence on ITC to League or Make Application to the English Football Association Registration Department for ITC Clearance or Exemption. See Appendix O.
F2-23/24 No GF Online LPGAF	The Player has no on-line League Parent Guardian Agreement Form (LPGAF) completed. Please read Document on <a href="http://www.eastberksfa.com">www.eastberksfa.com</a> and issue request to Guardian via email to complete LPGAF.
F4-23/24 No Player Photo	No Player Photo (head and shoulders only) taken in last 3 months and upload to GF player record.
F5-23/24 Already Reg to (Team UXX Colts)	Player is already registered to another team in EBFA 23/24
F6-23/24 No FAN#	The Player Record must have a WGS FAN (Football Association Number) entered by the club/team.
F7-23/24 No Full Address	The Player Record has no Full Address inserted. (No/Name, Street, Town, County and Postcode).
F8-23/24 No POA/POBP	The Player Record has No Proof of Age (POA)/ Proof of Birthplace POBP (Passport or Birth Certificate) has been uploaded to Players Record under the Documents Tab and;
F9-23/24 POA is Not Passport/Birth Certificate	The uploaded Proof of Age (POA)/ Proof of Birthplace POBP (Passport or Birth Certificate) is NOT a BC/Passport. Re-upload POA/POBP.
F9-23/24 Photo Deleted Non-Compliant F9-23/24 Photo Needs to Be Replaced	The Passport Style ID Photo uploaded is too small or of such poor photographic quality or watermarked (i.e. copy of Photo directly from passport) and has been deleted. Please uploaded a replacement compliant Passport Style ID Photo, which meet EBFA GotFootball Player Registration Photo Specification.
F9-23/24 Cannot Read POA/POBP Doc -	The Proof of Age (POA)/ Proof of Birthplace POBP (Passport or Birth Certificate) cannot be read, please upload a replacement which is readable or not digitally altered.
F9-23/24 POA is Corrupt Please Upload Again -	The Proof of Age (POA)/ Proof of Birthplace POBP (Passport or Birth Certificate) was corrupted during the upload process, please upload a replacement.
F9-23/24 POA/POBP is a Player Photo -	The Passport Style ID Photo uploaded is actually a Proof of Age (POA)/ Proof of Birthplace POBP (Passport or Birth Certificate) and has been deleted. Please uploaded a compliant Passport Style ID Photo.

## Appendix R – Player Authorised to Play In EBFA

EBFA will complete the GotFootball Player Registration for 2023/24.

Once GF Player Registration is complete – EBFA will check if it can approve the WGS FA-PRS.

If EBFA Can approve the WGS FA-PRS Player Registration – A “U-“ will prefix the Player Jersey Number of GF-PRS. Only Players on the Team sheet with a “U- “are authorised to player in EBFA as they have completed the GF-PRS and WGS-PRS process and the player will hold an EBFA ID Card or eCard.

If EBFA cannot approve the WGS FA-PRS for the following reasons, then EBFA note will be added to the Jersey field of the players N-, R-, NE- or N-F and will mean they are “Not Authorised To Play” (NATP) in EBFA fixtures and no EBFA eCard and no EBFA idCard will be issued.

Jersey Code	Description
U-X i.e. U-X, U-9, U-22, etc.	This Player Registered on GotFootball and WGS and is authorised to play in EBFA fixtures.  Player Authorised to Play in EBFA
N-X, Q-X or R-X i.e. N-X, N-9, Q-X, Q-22, R-X, R-32, etc.	Player Not Authorised to Play in EBFA as WGS FA-PRS “Submit To League” not found or not Approved.  Player Not Authorised to Play in EBFA
F0- WGS {First Name, Surname, DOB, Team }, does not Match GF NA-X i.e. NA-9, NA-22, etc.	If the WGS FA-PRS Players First name, Surname, Date of Birth or Team does not match GotFootball, then Club/Team needs to update the WGS FA-PRS updated (Mainly by Your Club’s County FA).  Player Not Authorised to Play in EBFA
N-FX i.e. N-F9, etc.	GotFootball Player’s record has no FAN entered in FAN# field so League cannot determine if there is a WGS record for this player.  Player Not Authorised to Play in EBFA

## Schedule A - Fees Tariff

Rule No	Rule	Fee Amount
3	Reprint of Player Registration Cards	<b>£4.00</b>
4(A)	Entry Fee per Team (Includes player registrations up to 31-Jul): Mini-Soccer - 5v5 Football (5-a-Side) Mini-Soccer - 7v7 Football (7-a-Side) Youth - 9v9 Football (9-a-side) Youth - 11v11 Football (11-a-side) Open Age U21 - 11v11 Football (11-a-side)	<b>£63.00</b> <b>£83.00</b> <b>£95.00</b> <b>£130.00</b> <b>£130.00</b>
4(C)	Standard Deposit	<b>£0.00</b>
7(C)	Deposit for Protest/Complaint	<b>£30.00</b>
7 (E)	Appeal Fee to County FA	<b>£25.00 or £50.00</b>
18(D)	Player Registration Fee Up To 31-Jul (U7 to U21) Player Registration Fee After 31-Jul (U7 to U21)	<b>£0.00</b> <b>£7.50</b>
18(H)	Transfer Fee - Club to Club Transfer Transfer Fee - Internal Club Transfer (U9 to U21) Transfer Fee - Internal Club Transfer (U7 to U8)	<b>£11.50</b> <b>£7.50</b> <b>£4.00</b>
18(H)	De-Registration Fee and release of player from Registration system	<b>£8.00</b>
23(E)	Match Officials  <b>Referees' Fees - Mini-Soccer - 5v5 Football</b> Under 7 and 8 <b>Referees' Fees - Mini-Soccer - 7v7 Football</b> Under 9 and 10 <b>Referees' Fees - Youth - 9v9 Football</b> Under 11and 12 <b>Referees' Fees - Youth - 11v11 Football</b> Under 13 and 14 Under 15 and 16 Under 17 and 18 <b>Referees' Fees - Open Age U21 - 11v11 Football</b> Under 21 <b>Assistant Referees' Fees:</b> Under 11 and 12 Under 13, 14, 15, and 16 Under 17 and 18 Under 21	<b>£18.00</b> <b>£22.00</b> <b>£26.00</b> <b>£30.00</b> <b>£34.00</b> <b>£38.00</b> <b>£40.00</b> <b>£17.00</b> <b>£22.00</b> <b>£24.00</b> <b>£26.00</b>

## Schedule B - Fines Tariff

<b>RULE NUMBER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>MAXIMUM FINE</b>	<b>MINIMUM FINE</b>
2 (G)	FAILURE TO AFFILIATE	£100.00	£25.00
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£100.00	£25.00
2 (K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£100.00	£25.00
3	CHANGE CLUB NAME WITHOUT LEAGUE PERMISSION	£50.00	£50.00
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£0.00	£0.00
4 (E)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE AFFILIATION NUMBER/DETAILS BY AUGUST 1 <sup>st</sup>	£100.00	£100.00
5 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£25.00	£25.00
6 (H)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£100.00	£25.00
6 (I)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN 14 DAYS OF NOTICE	DOUBLE THE ORIGINAL FINE UP TO £100.00	DOUBLE THE ORIGINAL FINE UP TO £100.00
8 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OR GENERAL MEETING	£100.00	£25.00
9	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING	£100.00	£25.00
10	FAILURE TO NOTIFY LEAGUE OF ALTERATION OF CLUB CHAIRMAN, SECRETARY, CHILD WELFARE OFFICER OR TREASURER	£50.00	£15.00
11 (A)	WITHDRAW OF TEAM WITHIN SEVEN DAYS OF AGM	£50.00	£20.00
11 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE OR COMPLETE FIXTURES	£100.00	£30.00
11 (D)	WITHDRAWAL OF A TEAM AFTER AGM	£50.00	£20.00
13 (A)	FAILURE TO RETURN TROPHY EVENT TROPHY BY 1 <sup>st</sup> MARCH (PLUS COST OF REPLACEMENT)	NOT Adopted	NOT Adopted
13 (C)	FAILURE TO ATTEND COMPETITION PRESENTATION EVENT	£50.00	£30.00
16 (A)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100.00	£100.00
16 (B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£100.00	£100.00
18 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£40.00	£10.00
18 (A)	FAILURE TO COLLECT PLAYER ID REGISTRATION CARDS AT NOTIFIED MEETING	£40.00	£10.00
18 (B) (ii)	FAILURE TO DECLARE A PLAYER REGISTERED WITH PREMIER LEAGUE OR FOOTBALL LEAGUE ACADEMY	£50.00	£50.00
18 (B) (iii)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON COMMENCING	£25.00	£10.00
18 (F)	SIGNING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS, OR INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM	£25.00	£10.00
18 (F) (i)	PLAYING FOR MORE THAN ONE TEAM WITHOUT BEING TRANSFERRED	£100.00	£25.00
18 (F) (ii)	REGISTERING FOR TWO CLUBS IN A SEASON, EXCEPT UNDER PROVISIONS OF 18 (E) (iii)	£100.00	£25.00
18 (F)/20 (I)	FAILURE TO EXCHANGE LEAGUE PLAYER REGISTRATION ID CARDS	£60.00	£15.00

18 (G) (ii)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£100.00	£25.00
18 (N) (i)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£100.00	£25.00
18 (O) (i)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£50.00	£20.00
18 (Q)	FAILURE TO HAVE AN EBFA GOTFOOTBALL TEAM SHEETS	£50.00	£20.00
18 (Q)	FAILURE TO KEEP A GOTFOOTBALL TEAM SHEET IN AN CONDITION SUITABLE FOR ITS USE, INCLUDING NOT DIGITALLY ALTERING THE TEAM SHEET	£50.00	£20.00
18 (Q)	FAILURE TO EXCHANGE GOTFOOTBALL TEAM SHEETS PRIOR TO A MATCH (OPPOSITION AND REFEREE)	£50.00	£20.00
18 (R)	FAILURE TO PRESENT GOTFOOTBALL TEAMSHEETS TO A LEAGUE OFFICIAL	£50.00	£20.00
18 (S)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY FOLLOW THE TEAM CHECK FORM PROCESS WHEN GOTFOOTBALL TEAMSHEETS AND/OR PLAYER REG ID CARDS ARE NOT PRESENTED/AVAILABLE	£50.00	£20.00
19(A)	FAILURE TO CHANGE TEAM SHIRT IF MATCH OFFICIAL INSIST TEAM CHANGE TEAM SHIRT DUE TO CLASH WITH MATCH OFFICIAL SHIRT	£50.00	£20.00
19 (A)	DELAYING KICK OFF BY NOT HAVING A CHANGE OF KIT	£30.00	£10.00
19 (A)	FAILURE OF TEAM SHIRTS TO BE UNIQUELY NUMBERED	£10.00 (per shirt)	Up to an aggregate maximum of £30
19 (A)	SHIRTS WITH PLAYERS NAMES PRINTED ON SHIRTS	£20.00 (per shirt)	Up to an aggregate maximum of £100
19 (B)	SHIRTS TO BE SUBMITTED IF COMPLAINTS ARE RECEIVED AS TO LACK OF DISTINGUISHING COLOURS	£20.00	£20.00
20 (A) (i)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED, DUE TO HOME VENUE NOT BEING AVAILABLE  Mini-Soccer - 5v5    Football Under 7 and 8 Mini-Soccer - 7v7    Football Under 9 and 10 Youth            - 9v9    Football Under 11and 12 Youth            - 11v11 Football Under 13 to Under 18 Open Age    - 11v11 Football Under 21	£30.00 £40.00 £70.00 £100.00 £100.00	£10.00 £10.00 £15.00 £20.00 £20.00
20 (A) (iii)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE SPECTATOR RESPECT LINE	£30.00	£10.00
20 (A) (iii)	CROSSING THE SPECTATOR RESPECT LINE TWICE IN A MATCH	£60.00	£20.00
20 (A) (iii)	STANDING OR OTHERWISE REMAIN WITHIN 10 METERS OF A GOAL	£30.00	£10.00
20 (A) (iv) 20 (A) (viii)	DELAYING KICK OFF BY NOT HAVING NO NETS	£30.00	£10.00
20 (A) (iv) 20 (A) (viii)	DELAYING KICK OFF BY NOT HAVING NO CORNER FLAGS	£30.00	£10.00
20 (A) (vi) & 29 Trophy Event (I)	FAILURE TO PLAY ALL PLAYERS IN A MATCH FOR THE MINIMUM ON-PITCH DURATION	£30.00	£10.00
20 (A) (viii)	DELAYING KICK OFF	£30.00	£10.00
20 (B)	FAILURE GET AGREEMENT OF DIV SEC TO A POSTPONMENT OF A FIXTURE	£50.00	£20.00



20 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCH ON THE DATE FIXED		
	Mini-Soccer - 5v5    Football Under 7 and 8	£30.00	£10.00
	Mini-Soccer - 7v7    Football Under 9 and 10	£40.00	£10.00
	Youth            - 9v9    Football Under 11and 12	£70.00	£15.00
	Youth            - 11v11 Football Under 13 to Under 18	£100.00	£20.00
	Open Age    - 11v11 Football Under 21	£100.00	£20.00
20 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£50.00	£20.00
20 (C)	FAILURE TO ACKNOWLEDGE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£50.00	£20.00
20 (D)	FAILURE TO HAVE MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS THAT SHALL CONSTITUTE A TEAM	£100.00	£25.00
20 (E) (i) & (iii)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE		
	Mini-Soccer - 5v5    Football Under 7 and 8	£40.00	£10.00
	Mini-Soccer - 7v7    Football Under 9 and 10	£40.00	£10.00
	Youth            - 9v9    Football Under 11and 12	£70.00	£15.00
	Youth            - 11v11 Football Under 13 to Under 18	£100.00	£25.00
	Open Age    - 11v11 Football Under 21	£100.00	£25.00
20 (E) (i)	FAILURE TO COMPLETE EBFA TEAM MATCH & RESPECT REPORT FOR FIXTURE THAT WAS NOT PLAYED	£20.00	£10.00
20 (E) (iv)	FAILURE TO COMPLETE EBFA TEAM MATCH & RESPECT REPORT FOR FIXTURE THAT WAS ABANDONED	£20.00	£10.00
20 (F)	FAILURE PLAY AN APPOINTED OR NAMED SUBSTITUTE (U7 TO U16)	£30.00	£10.00
20 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND (U12 to U21)	£10.00	£5.00
20(J)	FAILURE TO ENSURE THE PRESENCE OF A QUALIFIED FIRST AIDER AT A MATCH	£20.00	£10.00
21 (A) & 21 (B) & Appendix B	LATE RESULT OR LATE TEAM MATCH AND RESPECT REPORT	£20.00	£10.00
21 (B)	FAILURE TO REPORT ADDITIONAL MATCH RESULT DETAILS	£20.00	£10.00
21 (C)	PUBLISHING RESULT/GRADING TABLES FOR FIXTURES INVOLVING U7s, U8s, U9s, U10s or U11s	£50.00	£25.00
23 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£25.00	£15.00
23 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£25.00	£13.00
23 (E)	FAILURE TO CONTACT LEAGUE APPOINTED OFFICIAL	£10.00	£10.00
23 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£25.00	£25.00
23 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£25.00	£15.00
23 (I)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT REPORT ON LOW REFEREE MARKS (0 – 50) WITHIN 7 DAYS OF THE MATCH	£20.00	£10.00
24	FAILURE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION RELATING TO CLUB AND/OR TEAM(S)	£20.00	£10.00
26	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE LEAGUE PUBLICATIONS RULES	£50.00	£25.00

27 (I)	BRINGING THE LEAGUE INTO DISREPUTE, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£100.00	£100.00
28 (C) & 28 (D)	BRINGING THE LEAGUE INTO DISREPUTE, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£100.00	£100.00
29 Trophy Event (H)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE OR UNREGISTERED PLAYER	£60.00	£30.00
29 Trophy Event (N)	WITHDRAWING FROM TROPHY EVENT COMPETITION	£40.00	£20.00
	APPENDIX B – RESPECT MARKS AGE GROUP AWARD FAILURE TO SUBMIT MARKS BY SPECIFIC TIME	£50.00	£25.00
	Appendix G – POLICY FOR RECORDING IMAGES OF PLAYERS BRINGING THE LEAGUE INTO DISREPUTE, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£100.00	£25.00
	Appendix H – PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT BRINGING THE LEAGUE INTO DISREPUTE, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£100.00	£50.00
	Appendix I – PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT BRINGING THE LEAGUE INTO DISREPUTE, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£100.00	£50.00
	Appendix J – THE RESPONSIBLE FOOTBALL COACH CODE OF CONDUCT BRINGING THE LEAGUE INTO DISREPUTE, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£100.00	£50.00

### End of Document 25-Jul-2023 ###