



Herts Senior County League
Founded 1898 – Success with Dignity

LEAGUE RULES

2026-27

(Incorporating FA Standard Code of Rules)

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F.A. STANDARD CODE OF RULES

For 2026/27

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association for open age football (the “Standard Code”). The Standard Code is mandatory for (a) all Competitions at Regional NLS Feeder League level and below, (b) All Competitions at tier 7 and below of The FA Women’s Pyramid, (c) All Mixed Adult Football competitions authorised by the FA.

Competitions seeking sanction must draft their Rules in conformity with the Standard Code, using the same numbering and standard headings.

The mandatory rules are printed in normal text and the optional rules in italics. It should be noted that in many cases rules are so printed because they are alternatives and the procedure to apply should be retained and the others omitted. In all cases where a [] is shown the necessary name, address, number or wording to complete that rule must be inserted.

Competitions may add to the core of the Standard Code, which is mandatory, providing the additions are approved by the Sanctioning Authority and do not conflict with the mandatory rules or any relevant principles and policies established by the FA.

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.

“**Club Portal**” means the system used by Clubs to affiliate teams as determined by The FA from time to time;

“**Competition**” means the [Herts Senior County] League.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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“Match Officials” means the referee, the assistant referees and any fourth official appointed to a Competition Match.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Sanctioning Authority” means [The FA] [the.....County Football Association Limited].

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

“Season” means the period of time between one AGM and the next AGM.

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

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

“Team” means a team affiliated to a Club, including where a Club provides more than one team in the Competition in accordance with the Rules.

“The FA” means The Football Association Limited.

“Virtual Meetings” means meetings held electronically.

“written” or **“in writing”** means the representation or reproduction of words or symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

1. B- Unless stated otherwise, terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and the other way around.

GOVERNANCE RULES

2. COMPETITION NAME, CONSTITUTION

(A) The Competition will be known as [**“Herts Senior County League”**] (or such other name as the Competition may adopt). The Clubs participating in the Competition must be members of the Competition. A Club which ceases to exist or which ceases to be entitled to play in the Competition for any reason whatsoever shall automatically cease to be a member of the Competition.

(B) This Competition shall consist of not more than [] Clubs [and/or [120] Teams] approved by the Sanctioning Authority.

(C) The geographical area covered by the Competition membership shall be [**“The County of Hertfordshire and the surrounding geographical areas where appropriate following practical considerations”**].

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(D) The administration of the Competition under these Rules will be carried out by 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 to them subject to the provisions of Rule 7.

(F) The Rules are taken from the Standard Code of Rules (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)
1. All Clubs must be affiliated to an Affiliated Association.
 2. This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Sanctioning Authority and the constituent Teams of Clubs may be grouped in divisions, [each not exceeding **15, except in Premier and Div 1,2 that may go between 16-18**].

(H) Inclusivity and Non-discrimination

1. 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 (including those contained in the Equality Act 2010).
2. 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.
3. Any alleged breach of the Equality Act 2010 legislation must be referred to the appropriate Sanctioning Authority for investigation.

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

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

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

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

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(M) Only one Team from a Club shall be permitted to participate in a single division unless there is no viable alternative because of logistical issues and/or reasons linked to participation and geographical boundaries in which case the Competition will obtain the prior approval of the Sanctioning Authority. This Competition will ensure that, where permission is given, Teams from a Club operating in the same division are run as separate entities with no interchange of players other than by transfers of registration in accordance with these Rules.

3. CLUB NAME

- A. Any Club wishing to change its name must obtain permission from the Sanctioning Authority following consultation with the Competition. In the event that permission is granted, the Club must advise the Competition Secretary. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

4. ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

- A. Applications by clubs for admission to the Competition or the entry of an additional Team(s) from the same club must be made in writing to the Secretary by **[end of April]** and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee for each Team as set out in the Fees Tariff (**end of June**), which shall be returned in the event of non-election but not if the club withdraws its application.

Applications, of which due notice has been given, will be received at the AGM or an SGM if confirmed by a majority of the accredited voting members present.

When Rule 22.B is applied or a Team seeks a transfer or, is compulsorily transferred to another division, no Entry Fee shall be payable.

- B. The annual subscription shall be payable, in accordance with the Fees Tariff for each [Club/Team] it shall be payable by a date set by the management committee.
- C. In the event of any issue concerning the membership of any Club with the Competition the Management Committee may require a Deposit to be paid (in accordance with the Fees Tariff) by or on behalf of the Club on such terms and for such period as it may in its entire discretion think fit. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
- D. A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the entry fee, annual subscription and deposit (if required) have been paid.
- E. Clubs must ensure that all its teams participating in the Competition are recorded as affiliated on the Club Portal for the forthcoming Playing Season by the following date [1st July]. Clubs must advise the Competition Secretary in a manner prescribed by the Sanctioning Authority, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, its Officers and any other information required by the Competition. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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5. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

- A. The Management Committee shall comprise the Officers of the Competition and a minimum of one member but no more than [3] members 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 **[end of 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 **[end of May]** 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 for any office by the date stated in the earlier part of this Rule, nominations may be received at the AGM.
- C. 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 on each Club 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 at all such meetings, but no member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly relating to that 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)
- D. In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chair shall have a second or casting vote

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

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

1. Accept the charge and /or submit in writing a case of mitigation for consideration by the Management Committee; or
2. Accept the charge and notify the Competition [**7 days**] that it wishes to put its case of mitigation at a hearing before the Management Committee; or
3. Deny the charge and submit in writing supporting evidence for consideration by the Management Committee; or
4. Deny the charge and notify the Competition [**7 days**] that it wishes to have a hearing before the Management Committee.

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

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).

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.

With the exception of Teams playing at Regional NLS Feeder League of the National League System, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Management Committee must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

The maximum fine permitted for a breach of a Rule by a Team playing at Regional NLS Feeder League level is £500.

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 sanctioning Association.

- F. All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 7. Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 7 days.
- G. A minimum of [40 %] of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the management Committee or any of its sub-committees.

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- H. The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill any vacancies that may occur in their number.
- I. 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.
- J. 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 period set by the committee will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time the outstanding fines are paid.

Note: Team/s that have fixtures withdrawn due to not paying fines, the match that is withdrawn will be dealt with as a non-fulfilment in accordance with the fines tariff. Other sanctions of teams constantly not paying fines will be points deductions.
- K. 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.
- L. 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, subject to the provisions of the National League System Regulations or Women's Football Pyramid Regulations (which shall take precedence if applicable).
- M. The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee may be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile.
- N. The Competition shall not cancel, postpone, or withdraw an entire programme of competition matches (e.g all competitions matches, or all competition matches within a single age group or division, taking place over a single day/week) without prior written approval from sanctioning authority, except in exceptional circumstances of a serious nature (in which event, the competition must provide notification of cancellation, postponement or withdrawal to the sanctioning authority at the same time as the affected teams)
- O. Any Club/ Team that has a suspension placed upon them by the Governing body must have cleared that suspension by **Friday no later than 1700hrs** prior to weekend fixtures. If this deadline is missed the Herts Senior County League will withdraw the forthcoming weekend fixture and the club/ team will be dealt with in accordance with the fines tariff for non-fulfilment and this will continue until the suspension is lifted by the Governing body.
- P. Any Club/ Team that has not paid a league issued fine will be issued a late payment fine laid out in the fines tariff, a date will be set to pay the outstanding fine. If the fine is not paid by the given date, then the League will place a suspension upon the Club/ Team and the league will withdraw the forthcoming

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weekend fixture and the club/ team will be dealt with in accordance with the fines tariff for non-fulfilment and this will continue until the suspension is lifted.

7. PROTESTS, CLAIMS, COMPLAINTS, APPEALS

(A) 1. 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.

2. Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest lodged with the referee prior to the commencement of the Match.

(B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Secretary within 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. There may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the inquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

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

1. All parties must have received a minimum of 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.

2. Should a Club elect to state its case in person then it should indicate such when forwarding the written response.

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

(F) An intention to appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 7 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision.

A notice of appeal against a decision of the Management Committee must be lodged with the Sanctioning Authority, with a copy sent to the Secretary, within 14 days of the Management Committee providing written notification of its decision, accompanied by the relevant fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which may be forfeited in the event of the appeal not being upheld. The procedure for the appeal shall be determined by the Sanctioning Authority.

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

(H) All protests, claims or complaints relating to these Rules and appeals arising from a Player's contract shall be heard and determined by the Management Committee, or a sub-committee duly appointed by the Management Committee.

The Clubs or Players protesting, appealing, claiming or complaining must send a copy of such protest, appeal, claim or complaint and deposit a fee (as set out in the Fees Tariff) which shall be forfeited in the event of the protest, appeal, claim or complaint not being upheld, and in these circumstances may, in addition, be ordered to pay the costs at the direction of the Management Committee.

All such protests, claims, complaints, and appeals must be received in writing by the Secretary within 14 days of the event or decision causing any of these to be submitted.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(A) The AGM shall be held not later than 1st July in each year. At their meeting the following Business (in the following order) shall be transacted provided that at least 2/3rds of members are present and entitled to vote: -

1. Confirm the minutes of the last AGM.
2. Adopt the annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts from the previous season or accounting period.
3. Election of Clubs to fill vacancies. as recommended by the Management Committee.
4. Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing Season.
5. Election of Competition Officers and Management Committee members.
6. Appointment of auditors/verifiers.
7. Alteration of Rules, if any (see Rule 14)
8. Agree the date for the beginning of the Playing Season and kick off times applicable to the Competition.
9. Agree the date for the end of the Playing Season (save for Step 7 which shall be determined by the FA).
10. Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted by the Chair as being relevant to an AGM.

Clubs currently in membership of the competition shall be entitled to vote on items 1-3 above.

Those clubs set be accepted as clubs in accordance with item 3 above shall be entitled to attend the AGM but cannot vote on items 1-3 above.

All clubs (i.e. those clubs currently in membership of the competition and those accepted as clubs in accordance with item 3) shall be entitled to vote on items 4-10.

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

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

(D) Removed by SCOR 26/27

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(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. *Their provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 12.*

(F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of hand or count of email or virtual responses (for virtual meetings), unless a ballot be demanded by at least 50% of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chair so decides.

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

(H) (i) Any continuing Club must be represented at the AGM. Failure to comply with their Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

(ii) Any club that has submitted a valid application to join the Competition for the forthcoming season must have the opportunity to be put forward for membership and to have a vote taken on their membership application.

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

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

9. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

(A). On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call an SGM.

(B) The Management Committee may call an SGM at any time.

(C) At least seven 7 days' notice shall be given of a meeting under their 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 Rules of the competition

a) Removed by SCOR 26/27

b) Any **change of Chair, Secretary or Directors of the Club as named on** the above agreement must be notified to The County Football Association to which the Club is sanctioned and to the Secretary **of their Competition.**

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

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11. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

(A) Any Club intending, or having a provisional intention, to withdraw a Team from the Competition on completion of its fixtures and fulfilment of all other obligations to the Competition must notify the Secretary in writing **of such intentions by 31st March** each season. 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.

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

(C) Any Officer or member of a Club **found** guilty of a breach of Rule, other than field offences, shall be liable to such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of 12 (A) and/or (B) of this Rule.

(D) Any Club or member of the club who is found to make a false claim against another Club in the Competition will be fined in accordance with the fine tariff and the committee will review if any other sanctions shall be imposed.

(E) Any Club or member of a Club that bring the League into disrepute may be fined in accordance with the fines tariff and the committee will review all cases to determine if any other sanctions may be imposed.

13. TROPHY

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(A) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy:-

“We (A) (name.....) and (B) (name.....), the Chairman and Secretary of FC (Limited), members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of cup or trophy, and **the Cup or Trophy** having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before 31st March. If the cup or trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care, we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.”

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

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

14. ALTERATION TO RULES

- A. Alterations, for which consent has been given by the Sanctioning Authority, shall be made to these Rules only at the AGM or at an SGM specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 9. Any alteration made during the Playing Season to these Rules shall not take effect until the following Playing Season, except in exceptional circumstances where approved by Sanctioning Authority and The FA.
- B. Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the AGM shall be submitted to the Secretary by 1st March each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 1st April and any amendments to **these proposals** shall be submitted to the Secretary by 7th May. The proposals and proposed amendments **to these proposals** shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the AGM. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if 2/3 majority of those present **and** entitled to vote and voting are in favour.
- C. 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

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

(B) All expenditure in excess of £700 shall be approved by the Management Committee.

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

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

16. INSURANCE

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16. (A) All Clubs must have valid public liability insurance cover **for a minimum of** 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 an SGM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the members present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant SGM.

(B) In the event of the dissolution of the Competition, the members of the Management Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.

(C) The Management Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows:

(i) Any surplus assets, save for a trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Competition shall be transferred only to another Competition or Affiliated Association or The 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

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18. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

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

1. Removed by SCOR 26/27

Or

2. signed a fully and correctly completed Competition emergency form in ink on a match day prior to playing which is countersigned by an Officer of the Club and witnessed by an Officer of the opposing Club as well as the match official, and submitted to the Competition within two days (Sundays excluded) subsequent to the Competition Match.

The Player shall not play again in a subsequent match in the Competition until the Club has registered the player through the FA Player Registration System and is in possession of the approval of the Competition.

A maximum of 3 Players may be registered via the Emergency signing process at any one time.

To register a player a picture of the player must be on the registration system.

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

(B) 1. Contract players are not permitted in their Competition with the exception of those Players who are registered under Contract with the same Club who have a team operating at Steps 1 to 6 of the National League System, or Tiers 1-4 of the Women Pyramid System.

2. It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player registered to the Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate.

Clearance is required for any Player aged 10 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

3. Each team must have at least 15 Players registered 7 days before the start of each Playing Season. Failure to comply with their Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

4. In the event of a Non-Contract Player changing their status to that of a Contract Player with the same Club, or with a Club in another Competition their registration as a Non-Contract Player will automatically be cancelled and declared void unless the Club conforms to the exception detailed in Rule 18.B.1.

5. Players aged under 18 are not permitted to play in mixed adult football competition.

(C) A Player that owes a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) **shall be permitted to register for a Club but may be suspended from football activities if the player does not comply with the terms of the Football Debt Recovery regulations in respect of that football debt.**

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

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D. The Management Committee shall decide all registrations disputes. In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one club in the competition, the valid registration submitted first shall take precedence. The Secretary shall notify the club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

(F) It shall be a breach of Rule for a Player to: -

1. Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same Playing Season without first being transferred.
2. Having registered for one Club in the Competition, register for another Club in the Competition in that Playing Season except for the purpose of a transfer, or where the Competition adopts Rule 18.P.
6. Submit a signed registration form **as per Rule 18 A2** or submit a registration through **the Player Registration System** for registration that the Player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.

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

(G) 1. The Management Committee to accept the registration of any Player subject to the provisions of Rules 18.G. 2, 18.G.3 below (as applicable)

2. The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any Player or may fine any Player, at their discretion (in accordance with the Fines Tariff) who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities (subject to Rule 7).

3. The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any Player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 7) subject to the right of appeal to the Sanctioning Authority. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the Player is registered or intending to be registered with. Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated proven misconduct, which may deter a Participant from being involved in their Competition.

4. In respect of a mixed adult football competition the management committee shall refuse the registration of any player that is not aged 18 or above.

A player who has previously had a **registration removed** in accordance with Rule 18(G)(iii) but has a registration accepted at the expiry of exclusion will be considered to be under a **probationary period of 12** months. Whilst under a probationary period, should the Player commit a further act of proven misconduct under the jurisdiction of the Competition, (excluding standard dismissals), the Competition may consider a further charge of bringing the Competition into disrepute.

(Note: Action under Rule 18(G) (iii) shall not be taken against a Player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the Sanctioning Authority, and then only in cases of the Player bringing the Competition into disrepute and will in any event be subject to an appeal to the Sanctioning Authority or The FA. All decisions must include the period of restriction.

For the purpose of their Rule, bringing the Competition into disrepute can only be considered where the Player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match-based discipline, in any competition (and is not restricted to the Competition) in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.)

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(H) Subject to compliance with FA Rule C when a Club wishes to register a player who is already registered with another club it shall submit a transfer **notification** to the Competition **via the Player Registration System**. A fee as set out in the Fees Tariff **(will/may) be required**.

Such transfer shall be referred by the Competition to the club for which the player is registered. Should their club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Competition and to the player concerned within 3 days of receipt of the notification. Upon receipt of the club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within 3 days, the Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or 7 days after receipt of such transfer.

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

Note: A player can only move a maximum of 3 times during the playing season.

(I) A Player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition **after 31st March** except by special permission of the Management Committee.

(J) Registrations are valid for one Playing Season only.

(K) A Player shall not be eligible to play for a Team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding Competition Match (as specified in Rule 22(A)) unless the Player has played 6 Competition Matches for that Team in the current Playing Season.

(L) "A Team shall not include more than **4** Players who has/have played in **13** or more senior Competition Matches during the current Playing Season.

For the purpose of this Rule a senior competition(s) are any league game in the HSCL higher Divisions or any team in NLS Steps 6 or above.

(M) 1. Subject to Rule **18M2** any Club found to have played an ineligible Player in a Competition Match or Matches where points are awarded shall have the points gained from that Competition Match deducted from its record, up to a maximum of 12 points, and have levied upon it a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff).

2. The Management Committee may vary the sanction as relates to the deduction of points set out at Rule **18M 1** only in circumstances where the ineligibility is due to the failure to obtain an International Transfer Certificate or where the ineligibility is related to the Player's status.

3. Where a Club is found to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with **Rule 18M 1** above, the Management Committee may also, at its discretion order one or more of the following:

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

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

c) Order that such Competition Match or Matches be replayed (on such terms as

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are decided by the Management Committee).

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

1. Priority must be given at all times to activities of schools and school organisations. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.
2. The availability of children and young people must be cleared with the Head Teachers or Principals (except for Sunday leagues competitions).
3. To play open age football the player must have achieved the age of 16.

(O) See rule 18L

Where a team fields a player in a competition match or matches in a breach of this rule, the management committee may determine that it has fielded an ineligible player and that the provisions of rule 18M shall apply

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

If a Player's registration is cancelled, he/she will not be eligible to re-register in the Competition for a period of [7] days from the date of cancellation*.

*Unless by special permission of the League Management Committee

19. CLUB COLOURS

(A) Every Team must register the colour and design both Home and Away kits of its shirts, shorts and socks with the Secretary by [end of July] who shall decide as to their suitability.

Note: Teams playing in Premier to D2 must as a minimum have a change of shirts and socks, Teams from D3 down should as a minimum have a change of shirts.

(B) Any team wishing to change it's the colour(s) and/or design(s) of its shirt(s) and short(s) during the Playing Season must obtain permission from the Management Committee in advance of asking that change.

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

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

(E) Any Team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify its opponents of the colours in which they will play (including the colours of the goalkeeper's jersey) at least 7 days before the Competition Match.

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

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(G) Shirts must be numbered, failing which a fine will be levied in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

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

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

Clubs must take all reasonable precautions to keep their grounds in a playable condition. All Competition matches shall be played on pitches deemed suitable by the Management Committee and the **Ground Grading Document (known as Appendix A)**. If through any fault of the home team a match has to be replayed, the Management Committee shall have power to order the venue to be changed.

Only a league appointed Official can postpone a Premier League game whether via a pitch inspection or other means All other divisions the home team must consult the match official before any postponement of a match. Failure to abide by this would result in a non-fulfilment as per the fines tariff.

Lockable dressing rooms shall be provided by the home Club, accessible forty-five (45) minutes before kick-off (Saturday matches) and thirty (30) minutes before kick-off (midweek matches). By mutual consent, once dressing rooms are locked, it shall be permissible for the keys to be handed to and held in safe custody by an official of the home Club. Clubs in breach of their Rule shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Clubs with floodlights must have them approved by the Management Committee before use in Competition matches.

The Management Committee shall have power to decide whether a pitch and/or facilities are suitable for Competition matches and to order the Club concerned to play its Competition match(es) on another ground. A minimum of fourteen **(14) days'** notice shall be given by a Club wishing to play matches on a previously non-approved ground to permit examination of the nominated facility. Facilities not fulfilling all Competition requirements may not be approved, even on a temporary basis.

Those member Clubs whose ground becomes unavailable for fixtures at any time during the course of any season must either provide an approved alternative ground and facilities or with the consent of the Management Committee play the nominated fixture(s) on their opponents ground(s) on the date(s) originally set or re-arranged. Such games may be designated as 'home' games at the discretion of the Fixture Secretary.

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.

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

Within the Regional NLS feeder Leagues all Competition matches shall have a duration of 90 minutes. All other Competition matches shall have duration of 90 minutes unless a shorter time (not less than seventy (60) minutes) is mutually arranged by the two Clubs in consultation with the referee prior to the commencement of the match, and in any event shall be of equal halves. Two matches involving the same two teams can be played on the same day providing the total playing time is not more than 120 minutes.

The times of kick-off shall be agreed at the AGM and can only be altered by the mutual consent of the two competing Clubs and the Competition. **Failure to kick off at the correct time will result in fine as set out from the fines tariff.**

Note: During the season Kick off times can be between 1400hrs and 1500hrs for weekend matches and times outside of these parameters must be agreed mutually between teams and officials.

Where day light still prevails mid-week matches will kick off at 1830hrs (1900hrs latest depending on light conditions) unless teams have flood lights in which case these can kick off by no later than 1945hrs.

Referees must order matches to commence at the appointed time and must report all late starts to the Competition.

The home team must provide goal nets, corner flags and at least **Five** footballs fit for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if not provided. Failure to comply with their Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines tariff.

No overhead netting is allowed for 9v9 and 11v11 affiliated matches.

Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: Overhead wires used to support pitch divider netting are removed for all affiliated matches in the Regional NLS Feeder League level.

For those leagues which are not Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: 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.

(B) Except by permission of the Management Committee all Competition Matches (League and Cup) must be played on the dates originally agreed by the Competition but priority shall be given to the FA and parent County Associations Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a Competition match with the consent of the Competition. Failure to comply with their rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Note: The League will only permit a team to play in 1 outside cup competition excluding the list above as per Rule 2K

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

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In cases of emergency or backlog of fixtures the Management Committee may extend the season and/or order matches to be played on neutral or opponent's grounds.

(C) 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 and kit colours (including goalkeeper) to the Match Officials and an Officer of the opposing Club at least **[5]** clear days prior to the playing of the Competition Match.

The opposing Club must confirm receipt and give notice of its kit colours (including goalkeeper) at least **[3]** days prior to the playing of the Competition Match. If either is not so provided, the away relevant Club shall seek such details and report the circumstances to the To improve the likelihood of a clash being resolved prior to the day of a match.

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

(D) In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the minimum number of players which will constitute a team for a Competition match is 7.

(E) 1, In competitions where points are awarded, any Club that forfeits their game will be charged in accordance with the fines tariff for non-fulfilment;

a, award points from the competition match in question to the clubs opponents (without the awarding of goals)

b, not used removed by SCOR

If any pitch cancellation costs have occurred, then the team forfeiting the match will also be responsible for this cost.

note: Should a team Forfeit a match for the fourth time in a season an SGM will be called to remove the club from the playing season

The Management Committee also have the power to order any rescheduled Competition Match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent Club's Ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

In addition, the Management Committee may at its discretion order one or more of the following (if appropriate):

- a. impose a fine (in accordance with the Fines Tariff),
- b. deduct points from the defaulting Club,
- c. order the defaulting Club to pay any reasonable expenses incurred by the opponents.

2. Withdrawn Scor 26/27

3. Any Club unable to fulfil a fixture or where a Competition match has been postponed for any reason must, without delay, give notice to the Competition, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the Match Officials. Failure to comply with their Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Note: In event of a match postponed the Home club must contact the referee by phone if cancelled within 48hrs and make sure it is also confirmed by Referee.

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4. In the event of a Competition match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Competition. Failing such agreement and notification to the Competition within 7 days the Competition shall have the power to order the match to be played on or before a given date. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. Providing gate money is taken and retained the visiting Club shall receive their actual standard class rail or bus fares or the equivalent for 20 persons, or car allowance at 40 p per mile for transporting 20 persons or hire charge of a coach (receipt to be submitted). The residue (if any) to be equally divided between the two Clubs after deducting the cost of advertising, printing, posting, police and Match Officials charges. The home Club shall take the whole of the proceeds of the second Competition match.

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

5. The Management Committee shall review matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both teams.

Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand.

In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponent.

In cases where a Competition match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule that neither team will be awarded any points for that match, and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

6. If a Competition Match is abandoned each participating Clubs must, give notice of the abandonment to the Competition [HSCL] set out in rule 21B. Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff

The Management Committee shall review any match that has taken place where either or both Teams were under a suspension imposed upon them by the FA or Affiliated Association.

In each case the Team that was under suspension would be dealt with in the same manner as if they had participated with ineligible players in accordance with Rule 18(M) above.

Where both Teams were under suspension the game must be declared null and void and shall not be replayed.

(F) In the Premier Division and Division 1 a Club may, at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the game, use substitute players in any Competition match. A Club may name up to 5 substitute players all of whom may be used.

Where a Competition does allow return substitutes, a Team may use up to 5 from 5 substitute players named in a Competition match.

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In Division 2 and below a player who has been substituted becomes a substitute and may replace a player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of game. **(Roll on Roll Off policy)**

The referee (and a representative of the opposing Club) shall be informed of the names of the players taking part in the match (including substitutes) no later than 20 minutes before the start of the Competition match and a player not so named may not take part in that Competition match. Where a team fields a player in a competitive match or matches in breach of this rule, the management committee may determine that it has fielded an ineligible player and that the provisions of rule 18M shall apply.

Note: Team sheets will be issued electronically via RefSec (<https://herts.refsec.org>) to the match official and a representative of the opposing club at least 20 minutes prior to kick off. In Case of a failure a hard copy of the team could be provided and should be printed in capital letters so that the official and opposition can clearly see the person name listed.

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

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

(H) The Teams taking part in a Competition match shall identify a Team Captain who shall wear an armband and shall have a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of their teammates. Failure to comply with their Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

- (I) Where a suspension imposed in relation to:
1. a Football Debt (as defined under the Football Debt Recovery Regulations) or
 2. The football association regulations for safeguarding children or regulations for safeguarding adults at risk

upon a Club by The FA or Affiliated Association is not lifted, and/or the Club does not provide confirmation from The FA or Affiliated Association that such suspension is lifted to the Competition Secretary by [1600hrs) [1 day) before a fixture, that fixture will be treated as an unfulfilled fixture and dealt with in accordance with Rule 20(E)(i).

(J) The Competition shall require all Clubs and players to have signed the FA's Respect Codes of Conduct and produce these if required to do so by the Management Committee.

Note: Any club/ team who decides to use social media on any HSCL official site who uses derogatory language against the league, will be reported to the Hertfordshire FA.

Prior to each match the participants and the Match Officials shall conduct the 'Respect' handshake and offer handshakes to each other at the end of the match.

7. Where admittance is charged A Club shall retain any gate receipts for its home Competition matches, but up to four (4) visiting Club officials shall be admitted as guests having submitted their names at least five (5) days prior to the fixture.

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8. A Club having two (2) or more players selected for a Representative match may request release from its corresponding Competition fixture. Seven (7) days' notice of their request shall be given to the Fixture Secretary who will adjudicate on behalf of the Management Committee. Where a member Club has been asked to provide a player(s) for a Representative match then that player(s) is/are ineligible for selection by the member Club on the day of the Representative match. Member Clubs failing to comply with their requirement shall be dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

21. REPORTING RESULTS

- (A) The Competition must receive the following on FA Full Time
- 1- match result within (1) hour after the match has finished.
 - 2- All updates for team sheets/ Stats MUST be completed by Tuesday at 2300hrs following a weekend match and 48hrs from the end of a mid-week match.

Note: if clubs do not fill in Full Time team sheets correctly and manage to reach any Semi Finals or final than players who may have played in that match would not count towards appearances

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

- (B) All clubs must use the FA Full Time system.

Note: If teams use match day app, you still need to check full time to make sure all information has been updated.

- (C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be uploaded on full time and all other stats, or as prescribed by the Competition. Failure to comply with their Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff. Now Covered by (A)

22. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

- (A) Team rankings within the Competition shall be decided by points with three points to be awarded for a win and one point for a drawn match. The teams gaining the highest number of points in their respective divisions at the conclusion shall be adjudged the winners. Single matches must not be played for double points.
- (B) **Outside of the Premier and Division 1 to 3 leagues, all leagues from Division 4 and below double headers can be considered by the management committee should the need arise due to fixture congestion.**

In the event two or more teams being equal on points at the end of the playing season rankings shall be determined by conditions as determined by the Management Committee the following criteria, in the order of priority in which they appear:

(NB: for Regional NLS Feeder Leagues criteria 1 & 2 are mandatory; for all other Competitions they are optional):

1. [Goal difference (where the goals scored against each Team shall be deducted from the goals scored by that Team and the Team with the most favourable goal difference shall be placed highest).

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2. In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team which has scored the most goals during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.]
3. In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team that has won the most matches during the Playing Season shall be placed highest.
4. In the event of two or more Teams being equal, the Team which has the better playing record against the other Team in their head-to-head Competition Matches during the Playing Season will be placed highest.
5. One-off fixture or play-off games as determined by the League management committee.
If the records of two or more teams are still equal and it is necessary for any reason to determine the position of each, then the teams affected shall play a deciding match or matches as determined by the Management Committee.

(B) Automatic promotion shall be applied for the **first three (3) Teams and automatic relegation shall be applied for the last three (3) teams** in each division, except as provided for below subject to provisions of **rule 2L**.

1. Should one or more Teams withdraw from any one division after the Playing Season has commenced an equal number of Teams to those withdrawing in that division shall not be automatically relegated.
2. Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the Playing Season may be filled in any of the following ways:
 - a. retention of otherwise relegated Team(s); or
 - b. additional promotion of the next ranked Team(s) from the division below; or
 - c. election.
3. The last **three [3]** Teams in the lowest division shall retire, but be eligible for re-election except as below, and be subject to the conditions of Rule 22.B.1 above.
4. When a senior Team is relegated to a lower division of which the reserve (or other less senior) Team of the same Club is a member, or entitled to be a member, such reserve (or other less senior) Team must accept relegation to, or retain its position in, the next lower division. Should the senior Team be relegated to the lowest division, the reserve (or other less senior) Team of the same Club automatically retires from the Competition.
5. Should either or both of the leading Teams in any of the divisions have its senior Team in the next higher division, promotion shall fall, at the discretion of the General Meeting, to the next highest Team or Teams in the division concerned.

(C) In addition to the Team(s) automatically promoted under Rule 22.B, a maximum of one further Team shall be promoted by virtue of being the winner of a play-off match or series of matches (the "Play-Offs"). The eligibility criteria and format of the Play-Offs are as follows [].

(D) In the event of a Team withdrawing from the Competition before completing 75% of its fixtures for the Playing Season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting Team shall be expunged from the

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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.

(E) Where a promotion and/or relegation link exists between Competitions [] Clubs, providing they meet the appropriate grading criteria, will be eligible to make application to the [] Competition at their AGM. Should the champion Club not wish for promotion or, alternatively, not have the necessary grading criteria, then the [] or [] placed Club will be eligible under the same conditions.

At the end of each Season and depending on the geographical location of Clubs gaining promotion to or being relegated from the [] Competition, it may be necessary for the Competition either.

- (a) to accept a Club from the [] Competition,
- or
- (b) have a Club transferred to the same Competition.

The bottom [] Clubs in the [] Competition will be relegated. Each relegated Club will be allocated either to the [] Competition or to the Competition recommended as most appropriate by the Joint Liaison Committee.

REGIONAL NLS FEEDER LEAGUES ONLY: The bottom [3] Clubs in the [HSCL] Competition will be relegated; Any Club not maintaining the ground grading set for the Competition may be relegated at the end of the Playing Season. Each relegated Club will be allocated to the highest division in either [] Competition or the Competition recommended as most appropriate by the Joint Liaison Committee.

[3] Clubs will be promoted to the [HSCL] Competition from the [HSCL League Divisions] Competition, and the [] Competition providing that each Club is either the Champion Club or Runner-up or [] placed Club and has the necessary grading criteria.

In the event of there being no eligible Club wishing promotion or not having the necessary grading criteria from any of the Competitions, this will reduce the number of Clubs to be relegated from the [0] Competition.

If only [] Clubs are eligible or wish for promotion, the bottom [] Clubs in the [] Competition will be relegated.

If only [] Club is eligible or wishes promotion, only the bottom Club in the [] Competition will be relegated.

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

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

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

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23. MATCH OFFICIALS

(A) 1. Registered referees and assistant referees (where appropriate) for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the Sanctioning authority.

2. Match officials MUST ensure that they provide the Referee Appointments Officer with their available dates at least four weeks in advance.

3. All match officials are required to acknowledge their appointments to the Referees Secretary and to the home clubs concerned by email.

(B) 1. In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee, or should the appointed referee become unable to carry on for any reason during the match, the senior appointed assistant referee shall take charge, and a substitute assistant referee shall be appointed by the competing teams.

2. In cases where there are no officially appointed Match Officials in attendance, the clubs shall agree upon a referee. An Individual thus agreed upon shall, for the competition match, have the full powers, status, and authority of a registered referee. Individuals under the age of **16 must not participate** either as a referee or assistant referee in any competition match.

Note: Failure to comply with this Rule may render a defaulting club (or clubs) liable to a fine and the points awarded to opponents at the discretion of the Management Committee. **The Home team is responsible for finding an alternative official, if not agreed then the official role must be shared between teams.**

Should a non-fulfilment occur due to the default of either club in respect of the requirements of the Rule, this shall be reported and dealt with according to the Fines Tariff.

(C) Where assistant referees are not appointed each team shall provide a Club assistant referee. Failure to do comply with their Rule shall result in a fine according to the Fines Tariff.

Note: Upon request the Management Committee will allow registered referees to be appointed to non-Premier Division matches as Assistant Referees dependant on their availability. The requesting Club will be responsible for their fee and expenses.

(D) Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: (Herts Senior County Premier Division) No Club shall postpone a Competition match on account of the apparent state of the ground. In the event that such circumstances prevail, Clubs should comply with procedures provided for in the document published by The FA “**Recommended procedure for the guidance of Clubs and Referees in determining the suitability of grounds in adverse weather conditions**”. Should the ground be declared unfit it is the responsibility

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of the home Club to immediately advise the Competition, the Appointing Authority, the visiting Club and the Match Officials.

For those leagues which are **not** Regional NLS Feeder Leagues: The appointed referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the Ground in all Competition Matches and that decision shall be final, subject to the determination of the Local Authority or the owners of a Ground, which must be accepted.

- (E) Subject to any limits/provisions laid down by the sanctioning Authority match officials appointed under their Rule shall be paid a match fee in accordance with the Fees Tariff, inclusive of travel expenses.
- (F) In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the clubs have no control, the match officials, if present, shall be entitled to (Half fee only/ plus expenses). Where a match is not played owing to one club being in default, that club shall be ordered to pay the officials, if they attend the ground, their full fee. Failure to comply with their Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Note: In event of a match postponed the Home club must contact the referee by phone if cancelled within 48hrs and make sure it is also confirmed by Referee.

- (G) A referee not keeping their engagement and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Affiliated to which they are registered.

Each club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by the Football Association, award marks to the referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the prescribed form **(FA Full Time)** provided. Clubs failing to comply with their rule shall be fined in accordance with the Fines Tariff or dealt with as the Management Committee determine.

Marks shall be.

Awarded out of one hundred (100) and any club awarding less than **sixty-one (61)** shall explain their reasons in **writing by letter/E-Mail to the Referee Appointments Secretary.**

- (I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and on the form provided by the prescribed date each season, shall submit a summary to the Football Association and the Hertfordshire Football Association.

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

- (i) Where qualified assistant referees are appointed then the referee shall award marks in accordance with the marking scheme issued by county and national football associations and approved for use in the Competition by the Management Committee.

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



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(L) Match Officials shall comply with the provisions of any initiatives of the FA and/ Sanctioning Authority adopted by the competition.

FEES TARIFFS		MAXIMUM FEE
4 (A)	CLUB ENTRY FEE ADDITIONAL TEAMS UNTIL ACCEPTED BY AGM (Holding fee)	£30
4 (B)	CLUB/TEAM ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	£115
4 (B)	ADDITIONAL TEAM FEE	£50
4 (C)	DEPOSIT	£150
7 (C)	PROTEST/FEES	£25
18 (D)	PLAYER REGISTRATION FEE	£2
18 (D)	EMERGENCY REGISTRATION FEE	£3
18 (H)	TRANSFER FEE	£10
23 (D)	REFEREE PITCH INSPECTION	£10
23 (E)	REFEREE FEES	£50 - £53
23 (E)	ASSISTANT REFEREE FEES	£45

FINES TARIFF		MAXIMUM FINE
2 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH FA INITIATIVES	£10
2 (K)	UNAUTHORISED ENTRY OF TEAMS INTO COMPETITIONS	£50
3	FAILURE TO OBTAIN CONSENT FOR A CHANGE OF CLUB NAME	£10
4 (C)	FAILURE TO PAY A DEPOSIT	£25
4 (E)	FAILURE TO ENSURE TEAMS ARE AFFILIATED IN THE CLUB PORTAL	£20
5 (E)	COMMUNICATIONS CONDUCTED BY PERSONS OTHER THAN NOMINATED OFFICERS	£10
6 (I)	FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN INSTRUCTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	£250
6 (J)(P)	FAILURE TO PAY A FINE WITHIN REQUIRED TIME FRAME If this happens more than once, then points deductions could apply and if any suspensions are imposed then matches missed will be dealt with under non-fulfilment rules.	£25
8 (H)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT AGM	£30
9 (E)	FAILURE TO BE REPRESENTED AT SGM	£30
10	FAILURE TO SUBMIT NOTIFY CHANGES TO SIGNATORIES	£10
11 (A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL BEFORE DEADLINE	£100
11 (B)	FAILURE TO COMMENCE/COMPLETE FIXTURES	£250

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12 (D)	CLUBS OR THEIR MEMBERS WHO MAKE FALSE ACCUSSIONS AGAINST OTHER CLUBS Potential additional options of loss of points	£150
12 (E)	CLUBS OR ITS MEMBERS BRINGING THE LEAGUE INTO DISREPUTE. Potential additional options of loss of points	£250
13 (A)	FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TROPHY	£20
16 (A) & (B)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED INSURANCE	£20
18 (A)	FAILURE TO CORRECTLY REGISTER A PLAYER	£20
18 (B) (ii)	FAILURE TO HAVE THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF REGISTERED PLAYERS PRIOR TO THE SEASON COMMENCING	£30
18 (F)	REGISTERING OR PLAYING FOR MULTIPLE CLUBS INACCURATE COMPLETION OF A REGISTRATION FORM Potential additional options of loss of points, cost of replay, cost of officials	£100
18 (G) (ii)	REGISTRATION IRREGULARITIES	£250
18 (L) (3)	FIELDING MORE THAN THE PERMITTED NUMBER OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SENIOR COMPETITIONS MATCHES Potential additional options, loss of points, cost of replay, cost of officials	£250
18 (M)	PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER Potential additional options, loss of points, cost of replay, cost of officials	£250
18 (N)	FAILURE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	£10
19	DELAYING KICK OFF DUE TO NO CHANGE OF COLOURS	£10
19	FAILURE TO NUMBER SHIRTS	£10
20 (A)	Postponement by club without carrying out a pitch inspection with the official. Match treated as a non-fulfilment in accordance with the fines tariff	£250
20 (A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE LOCKABLE DRESSING ROOMS	£25
20 (A)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES AT AN ALTERNATIVE VENUE SHOULD YOUR GROUND BECOME UNAVAILABLE FOR ANY REASON.	£50
20 (A)	LATE KICK OFF FROM ADVERTISED TIME	£50
20 (A)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CORNER FLAGS/ MATCH BALLS AND OTHER ACCESSORIES	£50
20 (B)	FAILURE TO PLAY MATCHES ON THE DATE FIXED	£75
20 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF A FIXTURE	£15
20 (D)	PLAYING MATCH WITH LESS THAN REQUIRED NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£30
20 (A)(E) Relates to 6 (O)	FAILURE TO PLAY FIXTURE: additional loss of points, any pitch costs incurred	£250
20 (E) Clause 4/5	ABANDONMENTS CAUSED BY ONE TEAM	£250

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	<i>potential additional loss of points and award of match to opponents</i>	
20 (E) 6	FAILURE TO NOTIFY OF ABANDONMENT OF MATCH	£30
20 (H)	NO CAPTAIN'S ARMBAND	£5
21 (A/B)	LATE RESULT NOTIFICATION after a MATCH	£15
21 (A/B)	FULL TIME NOT UPDATED BY TEAM FOLLOWING A MATCH	£30
23 (C)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE CLUB ASSISTANT REFEREE	£10
23 (E)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS' FEES AND EXPENSES	£25
23 (F)	FAILURE TO PAY MATCH OFFICIALS WHERE A MATCH IS NOT PLAYED	£25
23 (H)	FAILURE TO PROVIDE REFEREE'S MARK	£20
Appendix A-C Ground Conditions	FAILURE TO ABIDE BY GROUND CONDITIONS DOCUMENTS OR SUBMIT AN ACTION PLAN. POSSIBLE SANCTIONS, DEDUCTION OF POINTS, RELEGATION	£250

HE PAULINE MARY FOX TROPHY

The Trophy will be known as the Pauline Mary Fox Trophy and will be awarded annually to the league team which scores the highest total number of goals in its league matches. Games played in the Norman Appleby Trophy and Cecil Hudson Cup, and in FA and county cup matches, are not to count. Abandoned games are not to count. The final table will be based upon thirty (30) matches and a team playing more or less than their number of games will have its score adjusted pro-rata thereto. In the event of two or more teams being tied, the winners will be the one with the least number of goals against after the pro-rata adjustment, should their be necessary. Should there still be a tie, then the team which has scored the highest number of goals in any one of its league matches will be declared the winner. In the event of there still being a tie, the final adjudication will be made by the officers of the Competition, whose decision will be final, subject to the usual right of appeal to the Hertfordshire Football Association Limited. No monetary award will be made, but a suitable memento will be awarded to the successful team to commemorate the winning of the trophy. The Trophy will be held for one season and the presentation will be made to the winning team at the annual general meeting.

THE LEAGUE CLUB SPORTSMANSHIP TROPHY

The Trophy will be awarded annually to the league club that, in the opinion of the member clubs, has the best conduct record in league matches. The presentation will be made to the winning club(s) at the Annual General Meeting and the Trophy will be held for one season. No monetary award will be made, but a suitable memento will be awarded to the successful club(s) to commemorate the winning of the Trophy. To decide the winner, each member club will vote for one team (other than one of its own) in each of the divisions in which it plays and which in that club's opinion displayed the best sporting conduct during the season current. Ballot papers for their purpose will be provided by the General Secretary and will be returned at a date specified by him but in any event not later than the

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May 31st in each season. The total number of votes obtained by each club will be divided by the number of teams that club has playing in the league and the club then having the highest number thus obtained will be declared the winner. In the event of there being a tie, the record of the clubs concerned in the Competition with regard to infringements of league rules will be examined to determine the winner. In the event of there still being a tie, then the final adjudication will be made by the officers of the Competition, whose decision will be final, subject only to the usual right of appeal to the Hertfordshire Football Association Limited.

League run Cup Competitions

The competitions shall be managed by the Herts Senior County League Management Committee (herein after referred to as the Management Committee), or its Sub Committee, acting on behalf of the League Management Committee.

The Management Committee, or its Sub Committee, shall have powers to apply, act upon, and enforce the rules of the competitions.

The Management Committee, or its Sub Committee shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the competitions, including any not provided for by the rules.

Any rules listed within this appendix are additional to rules within the main base of League Rules.

1. **Cups and Trophies run by the league.** (Divisions/ Teams to enter determined by HSCL Committee)
 - a. **Norman Appleby Trophy,**
 - b. **Cecil Hudson Cup,**
 - c. **Bingham Cox Cup, Regional Competition**
 - d. **Gregg Cup, Regional Competition**
 - e. **Watford Peace Memorial**

2. Entry and Fees

- a. The competitions shall be competed for annually, from the season's constitution agreed at start of the season.
- b. Fees are incorporated into the standing Registration invoices issued at the AGM.
- c. The entrance fee for each tournament is in line with the Fees tariff.

3. Draws and Confirmation of matches.

- a. Draws will be made by the Management Committee, with each round being drawn manually. There may be times when the draw is made for 2 or more rounds.
- b. Clubs shall confirm fixtures with their opponents and match officials as per the procedures laid down in League Rule 10(D), and match officials are required to

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acknowledge their appointments to the Referees Secretary and with home clubs as laid down in League Rule 23(A) (ii).

- c. The team drawn first in each tie will be the home side and played at their own venue.
- d. Ties in the Semi-Final will follow the process in 3c.
- e. There may be occasions whereby the Management committee may choose another venue to host the semi-final/s which would be notified to teams after the draw was made if this was to be the case.
- f. The Final of each tournament will be played at a neutral venue selected by the Management Committee.

4. Duration of Games, Penalty Shoot-outs etc.

- a. All Games will be 90 minutes set by the match official/s.
- b. The half-time interval shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes duration which time may only be altered with the consent of the referee.
- c. There is NO extra time played in any tournament listed in section 1.
- d. If after 90 minutes has been completed the tie is drawn, then the result will be decided by taking kicks from the penalty spot as laid down by IFAB procedures. If after 5 penalty Kicks or less have been taken from each team and no winner has been provided, then penalty kicks will continue into sudden death until a Winner emerges.

5. Eligibility of Players, Short Teams, Substitutions

- a. Only players registered with the league and team can participate in any cup fixtures in line with league rule 18.
- b. The signing-on of players under the League's Emergency Registration procedure will be permitted in the League's cup competitions up to but not including the Semi-Final and Final stage.
- c. There are no player restrictions on number of games played in each round up to and including the Quarter Final ties.
- d. **Eligibility** for Semi Finals and then the Final are as follows.
 - i. **Norman Appleby Trophy**, a player must have played for the team in **six appearances (6)** in League fixtures and League run cups only as listed in section 1
 - ii. **Cecil Hudson Cup**, a player must have played for the team in **six appearances (6)** in League fixtures and League run cups only as listed in section 1
 - iii. **Bingham Cox Cup**, a player must have played for the team in **six appearances (6)** in League fixtures and League run cups only as listed in section 1
 - iv. **Gregg Cup**, a player must have played for the team in **six appearances (6)** in League fixtures and League run cups only as listed in section 1



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- v. **Watford Peace Memorial**, a player must have played for the team in **six appearances (6)** in League fixtures and League run cups only as listed in section 1
- e. In the event of a club playing in any match with less than eleven (11) players it shall be fined £10 for each player deficient.
- f. As stated in league Rule 21a, FA Full time is used to update all team sheets, stats etc. **Failure to update the system** is the fault of the team, any failure to update a team sheet means that this game is not counted towards appearances as laid out in clause E.
- g. Emergency dispensation may be considered if a team in a semi-final or final cannot field 11 players for any reason other than appearances or if the Goalkeeper is injured and needs to be replaced.
- h. **Substitutions are as follows.**
 - i. Norman Appleby Trophy, 5 Substitutes can be named and used in a match.
 - ii. All other competitions will be roll on, roll off from 5 substitutes named, so in effect unlimited substitutions from the 5 players on the bench.
- i. Club Colours for teams to wear for the final will be subject to committee approval, there will be times if there is a clash of colours that each team will be asked to wear their away strip.

6. Referees and assistant Referees

In the Finals of all competitions the match officials shall be presented with commemorative awards in addition of match fees. Travel expenses may be claimed at the currently prescribed rates for League official travel. The officers of the Competition shall appoint all referees in both competitions.

In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee, or should the appointed referee become unable to carry on for any reason during the match, the senior appointed assistant referee shall take charge and a substitute assistant referee be appointed. In cases where there are no officially appointed assistant referees, the clubs must agree to a substitute person as referee and the game must be played.

A referee thus agreed upon shall for that game have the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee. Should a non-fulfilment occur, due to the default of either club, in respect of the requirements of their rule, then the defaulting club shall be eliminated.



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In the Norman Appelby Trophy competition there will be up to 3 officials appointed to games throughout the competition. Payment for the officials are to be split between the competing teams, the onus is on the home team to arrange payment to officials.

7. Fulfilment of Fixtures

Any team failing to fulfil a fixture in these competitions on the date fixed, may be removed and fined as per League Rule 20(F) (iii). **NOTE:** Football Association, Hertfordshire Football Association and other County competitions shall take precedence.

8. Semi Final and Final Ties

Each club competing in the Semi-Final and Final ties shall, **seven (7)** days prior to the date fixed for the ties, submit to the Competition Fixture Secretary and their opponents, a list from which their team to play will be selected. Failure to comply with their rule will incur a fine of not less than £25.

9. Protests, Claims and Disputes

All on field disciplinary or abandonment caused by one or more teams will be dealt with by the County FA.

After any FA finding the conclusions of the match concerned will be conducted by the Management Committee or Sub Committee to decide on match result or if the game is to be replayed.

Any game abandoned due to any other issue not related to above and any misconduct by either side will be dealt with by the Management Committee or Sub Committee and any subsequent decision made will be final.

The management committee or sub committee reserves the right to uphold any decision made on whether team/teams should remain in the competition or whether any game should be replayed due to any misinterpretation of the rules of the competition.

All other matters including ineligible players, including any dispute occurring between clubs in these competitions, shall be referred to the arbitration of the Management Committee.

Any team wishing to appeal a decision to the committee must do so in writing to the League secretary within 3 days of the match played along with £25 paid to the League account. Any Decision of the committee is binding and final for all the competitions held.



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C. INCLUSIVE SECTION RULES

1. ELIGIBILITY

Only players who have a disability based on the definitions below will be allowed to compete in the League:

- (A) A Mental or physical impairment which has substantial and long-term adverse effect on their / her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.
- (B) Substantiated – more than minor or trivial
- (C) Long term has lasted or is likely to last twelve (12) months or more or the rest of an individual's life is terminally ill

Their definition covers hidden impairments such as mental illness or mental health problems and learning disabilities.

2. PLAYER REGISTRATION

All players must be registered. A registered playing member of a club is one who has either:

(A) Prior to the matchday:

- Signed a fully and correctly completed competition registration form in ink,
- Countersigned by an officer of the club,
- Submitted to the Registration Secretary before the 1st of April,
- The registration has been confirmed to the club by the league prior to playing.

(B) On the matchday:

- Signed a fully and correctly completed competition registration form in ink,
- Countersigned by an officer of the club and officers of the opposing clubs,
- Submitted to the Registration Secretary within two days (Sundays excluded) subsequent to the match and before the 1st of April.

A maximum of four (4) players may be registered on a matchday during the season.

Each Player Registration will be subject to a fee of £2. Clubs will be invoiced by the 28th of April of each year.

Having signed for one club in the competition, said player cannot sign for another club unless an agreed transfer is completed.

The transfer must be completed with signed consent of both clubs on an Transfer Form, and the new club paying the League a fee of £5. Players cannot be transferred after 31st of March of each year.

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A team found guilty of playing a player who is not registered to them, or registered to another side, may have their points deducted for the offending games and be subject to a fine from the League.

3. CLUB INFORMATION

All clubs must submit the following information to the league for the forthcoming season by 1st August of each year:

- Number of teams in each division / age group
- Club training times & venues
- Club colours
- Team manager
- Contact details for the club and team manager

4. LAWS OF THE GAME

All matches at seven a-side and shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as determined by FA (or as amended in the handbook).

5. DURATION OF MATCHES

Each game will be fifteen minutes, one-way.

Games will run continually throughout the day, so please check the fixtures and make sure you are warmed up ready to start the game and enter the field of play as soon as possible. Teams not ready on time will have their match duration reduced by the amount of time taken to start the fixture.

6. SUBSTITUTES

All teams are limited to squads of twelve (12) for each match (seven (7) players + five (5) substitutes).

All teams may use a maximum of five (5) substitutes per match. Players may “roll on roll off” with the referee’s permission. In the interest of players development all coaches should ensure that equal playing time is given to all players where possible.

7. START OF PLAY

At the start of play the ball must be played forward. Every player on the team opposing that of the kicker shall remain at least three (3) metres from the ball.

Should the game be stopped for any reason other than those mentioned, the game will be re-started via a drop ball. The referee shall not drop the ball within three (3) metres of the lines marking the penalty area and touchlines.

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8. BALL IN PLAY

There will be no height restriction.

9. BALL OUT OF PLAY

When the ball is out of play, the ball shall be returned to play using a normal throw-in or rolling the ball into play.

When a member of the attacking team puts the ball out of play over the opponents' goal line, the goalkeeper shall return the ball into play via a goal kick.

When a member of the defending team puts the ball out of play over their own goal line, the opposing team shall be awarded a corner kick.

10. OFFSIDE

There is no offside.

11. FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Sliding tackles are not permitted and shall be penalised by the awarding of a free kick. (Their rule is inserted to keep players on their feet to improve development of players).

A player who is sent off shall automatically be suspended from playing any further part in the matchday.

12. FREE KICK

When a player is taking a direct or indirect free kick, all of the opposing team should be at least three (3) metres from the ball until it is in play.

All free kicks given against the defending side for infringements committed near the goal area should be taken from no less than three (3) metres outside the goal area at the nearest point to where the offence occurred.

13. PENALTY KICK

At the taking of a penalty kick, all players except the penalty taker and the defending goalkeeper shall be at least three (3) metres behind the penalty spot.

The defending goalkeeper must remain on their goal line, facing the kicker, between the goalposts, until the ball has been kicked.

14. THE GOAL AREA

Both attacking and defending players are allowed inside the penalty area. Goalkeepers are allowed outside the penalty area but must not handle the ball.

15. AWARDING POINTS

The following points will be awarded for league games:

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- Three Points Win
- One Point Draw
- No Points Loss

If at the end of the season teams finished equal on points the league champions will be decided on:

- Goal Difference
- Goal Average
- Goals Scored

Any team that does not attend a match, forfeit their game and automatically lose the match 2-0.

16. PITCH DIMENSIONS

Seven a-side	Max	60 yards	x 40 yards
	Min	50 yards	x 30 yards

Each pitch should contain a centre spot, a goal area and a penalty spot.

See appendix 2 for layout of pitch. (Throw down lines can be used to mark goal area and can be loaned from the League with two weeks' notice). The penalty spot should be 8 metres from the midpoint between the goal posts.

All goals should be anchored securely in accordance with FA goal safety guidelines, see Appendix 3.

17. HOSTING A MATCH DAY

The hosts of the match day must:

- (A) Ensure all pitches meet the pitch requirements as listed above.
- (B) Ensure the set up and use of Respect barriers. On grass pitches, only players, the referee and club officials, who are or about to play, are permitted inside the Respect barriers. On artificial pitches, only players, the referee and club officials, who are or about to play, are permitted inside the caged area. (Respect barriers can be loaned from the League with two weeks' notice).
- (C) Supply match balls, two size five match balls per adult match.
- (D) The League will provide referees for all match days.
- (E) Inform the League of the surface of the pitches to be used for matches.
- (F) Record and report all match results and Matchday Registration Forms.

18. KIT COLOUR

If teams have a colour clash, the 1st named team on the fixture list will where possible change their kit.

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19. EQUIPMENT

A player must:

- Not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player. All Jewellery must be removed.
- Wear shin guards. The shin guards must be covered entirely by the socks, made of a suitable material (rubber, plastic or similar substances) and provide a reasonable degree of protection.
- Wear appropriate footwear for the surface of the pitch.

20. MATCH DAYS

All teams are to:

- Ensure they have the appropriate amount of responsible adults in order to manage their group of players. Where possible the ratio should be increased when a team has a particularly challenging group of players. The team should maintain that ratio until they have left the venue.
- Arrive thirty (30) minutes before kick-off.
- Confirm all players that are attending a matchday by using the Matchday Registration Form.

It is acknowledged that not all players will understand codes of conduct and therefore it is agreed that all coaches will manage their own group of players in terms of discipline and assist the referee where necessary.

21. REFEREES

All referees must be FA qualified. All referees must wear their official kit.

Each referee will be paid a set fee of £45.00, inclusive of expenses, by the League immediately after the match day fixtures have been completed.



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