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MEMORANDA TO REFEREES

(1) Please advise the Referees Appointment Secretary of your available dates as soon as possible.

(2) Kick-off times should be at 11:00am or 1:30pm unless otherwise stated, report any late kick-off or should the fully completed team sheet not be submitted to you before kick-off indicating on the team sheet the Club responsible and any relevant circumstances.

(3) Please advise the Referees Appointment Secretary should your appointment not be confirmed by the 'home team' by the preceding Thursday evening of the Sunday fixture.

(4) Please make sure that team sheets are correctly completed before you sign them. **DO NOT SIGN A BLANK TEAM-SHEET.**

(5) Please advise the Referees Appointment Secretary if the 'home' team fails to provide a satisfactory match ball, nets or flag posts.

(6) Please report any failure to pay your match fee to the Referees Appointment Secretary.

(7) Up to five substitutes per team may be nominated, in the under 11's to under 16's age groups, all five named substitutes may be permitted to play, any player who has been substituted during a match himself becomes a substitute and may in turn replace another player at any time (repeat substitutions) subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with F.A. Law

(i) Teams playing in the Youth Division shall be permitted to use all five named substitutes at any time during their matches but cannot make repeat substitutions.

(ii) Teams playing in the small sided-mini soccer shall consist of seven players the number of substitutes allowed for each team shall be seven. There will be no restriction on how many times players shall be allowed to leave and re-enter the field of play (repeat substitutions) subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with F.A. Law 3.

MEMORANDA TO REFEREES (Cont...)

(8) In all Preliminary Rounds Quarter-Finals and Semi-Finals of the Cup Competition, if the scores are equal at the end of normal time extra time shall be played.

(i) The Mini-Soccer age groups shall play 5 minutes each way.

(ii) The Under 11's to 16's age groups shall play 10 minutes each way.

(iii) The Youth 17's to 18's age groups shall play 15 minutes each way.

(iv) If the scores are still equal after extra time penalties shall be taken in accordance with F.I.F.A. Rules to decide the winner.

(v) In all the age group Cup-Finals if the scores are still equal after extra time there shall be no penalties. The Cup will be shared equally by the two finalists.

(9) The Referee has the authority to reduce the duration time played by ten minutes each way due to inclement weather or where the elements may reduce the light to complete League or Cup fixtures. Both teams' managers to be informed before kick-off.

(10) Double headed fixtures must have a half time interval of five minutes between each of the two equal half's of play, with two separate team sheets for each of the separate matches.

(11) Referees match fees for the ensuing season in the Competition under 11's to under 14's age groups shall be £18.00. per game. Match fees for the under 15's to Youth age groups shall be £22.00. Assistant Referees match fees shall be £15.00. Mini-Soccer Referees match fee shall be £10.00.

(12) Referees should not request clubs in advising them of the assessment marks given by the teams following the match.

(13) The fully completed team sheet must be submitted to the Referee 10 minutes before kick-off teams clubs not complying must be reported on the team sheet.

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Important Notice to Club Secretaries & Team Managers **Age limit instruction by the Football Association**

Club Secretaries and Team Managers having teams playing in Mini-Soccer and Managers who will be playing 11-a-side football in season 2007/08 please note the clarification of age banding rules.

- (1) To play affiliated football, the player must be six years old on or before 31st August (F.A. Rule 4).
- (2) Under 8's can play league games for points to gain ranking, no knock-out cup games allowed (F.A. Mini-Soccer Handbook). This includes end of season tournaments.
- (3) To play in a game of more than 7v7, the player must be 10 on or before 31st August (F.A. Rule 4) Under 10's players can play in under 11's age band football providing they are playing no more than 7v7 and shall not be permitted or encouraged to play, in a match between sides of more than seven players per side.
- (4) To play adult football from this season 2007/08, the player must be 16's years old.
- (5) To play under 18's football from this season 2007/08, the player must be 15 years old on or before 31st August. (F.A. Rule 4).
- (6) All players in this Competition must play within their correct age band to comply with (F.A. Rule 4).
- (7) The player's registration for the ensuing season shall only be accepted by the Registration Secretary on the qualification dates within the player's age band
- (8) All team Officials of the under 8's age group need for season 2007/08 to attend the Football Association Safeguarding Children Workshop, all other age group team officials who have not attended the F.A. Workshop must undertake this requirement, during the season therefore the Coventry Minor Football League shall schedule such 3 hour Workshops on Monday evenings 6:30pm to 9:30pm, the League will meet part of the cost of the Workshops. Clubs shall be notified of dates and venue. Certain team Officials will have already undertaken the requirement through their Clubs.
- (9) Legislation is changing; all persons involved with Minors or who come into contact with Minors need to also complete or have completed a Football Association C.R.B. Check- Criminal Record Bureau Check.
- (10) The League Welfare Officer Mrs Lesley Proctor is registered to verify the C.R.B. application check forms on behalf of the Competition the C.R.B. Disclosure forms can be obtained from the Welfare Officer.

CHILD PROTECTION STATEMENT

1. Any act, statement, conduct or other matter, which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children, shall constitute behaviour, which is improper and brings the game into disrepute.
2. In these Regulations the expression "Offence" shall mean any one or more of the Offences contained in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and any other criminal offence which reasonably causes The Association to believe that the person accused of the offence poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.
3. Upon receipt by The Association of;
 - 3.1 notification that an individual has been charged with an Offence; or
 - 3.2 notification that an individual is the subject of an investigation by the Police, Social Services, or any other authority relating to an Offence; or
 - 3.3 any other information which causes The Association reasonably to believe that a person poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children then The Association shall have the power to order that the individual be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
4. In reaching its determination as to whether an order under Regulation 3 should be made The Association shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:
 - 4.1 whether a child is or children are or may be at risk of harm;
 - 4.2 whether the matters are of a serious nature;
 - 4.3 whether an order is necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by The Association or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded.
5. The period of an order referred to in 3 above shall not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any charge under the Rules of The Association or any Offence is decided or brought to an end.

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CHILD PROTECTION Cont...

6. Where an order is imposed on an individual under regulation 3 above. The Association shall bring and conclude any proceedings under the Rules of The Association against the person relating to the matters as soon as reasonably practicable.
7. Where a person is convicted, or is made the subject of a caution in respect of an offence, that shall constitute a breach of the rules of The Association and The Association shall have the power to order the suspension of the person from all or any specific football activity for such a period (including indefinitely) and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.
8. For the purpose of these Regulations, The Association shall act though its Council or any committee or sub-committee thereof, including the Board.
9. Notification in writing of an order referred to above shall be given to the person concerned and/or club with which he is associated as soon as reasonably practicable

International Clearance

International clearance is required by all players moving across borders to play football. It applies to all players over the age of 12.

Please be vigilant when registering players. If you think they have played abroad they will need clearance back before they can play in England.

'Abroad' even applies to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland!!

Make sure you ask your players if they have played outside of England before you register them. If they have you will need to contact the F.A. registrations Department. Who will do their utmost to get the player cleared for you as soon as is possible.

Please bear in mind that it is not always possible to get clearances immediately. The F.A. have to deal with dozens of foreign Associations and sometimes the process is slow. Please also remember the time differences in some countries, especially America and Australia.

1. NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

- (A) This Competition shall be designated the John Bryan Coventry Minor Football League and shall consist of not more than 100 Clubs, by invitation who shall be Full Member Clubs.

All such Member Clubs must be affiliated to an affiliated County Football Association and their names and particulars shall be returned annually by the appointed date on the Form 'D' to the B.C.F.A. Ltd.

The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be their 'Home Ground' within a fourteen mile radius of The Council House, Coventry.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the B.C.F.A. Ltd and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, each not exceeding 16 in number

Member Clubs shall not enter any of their teams playing in the Competition in any other outside Cup Competitions (with the exception being that of F.A. and County F.A. Competitions) except with the written consent of the Management Committee of the Competition.

Clubs will be allowed to enter one outside Cup Competition only. The Secretary of the Club must inform the League Secretary of the Cup Competition they intent to enter, in writing by the last day of July.

Please note: Clubs age group teams that enter the Tamworth Cup Competition which are scheduled to be played on Saturdays shall be required to honour their scheduled League fixture on the Sunday in this Competition.

The Competition will provide 11-a-side football for players who have attained the age of 10 as at midnight 31st August in a playing season and Mini-Soccer for players who have attained the age of 6 years but not the age of 10 years as at midnight on the 31st August in a playing season.

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- (B) At the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, a majority of the delegates present shall have power to decide or adjust the compilation of the divisions at their discretion. When necessary this rule shall take precedence over Rule 12
- (i) The Competition shall consist of divisions, as required, in age groups U8's, U9's, U10's, U11's, U12's, U13's, U14's, U15's, U16's, U17's, U18's, (or Youth U17's & U18's age groups combined)
 - (ii) The U8's, U9's and U10's age groups shall play Mini-Soccer.
 - (iii) All other age groups shall play 11-a-side football.
 - (iv) Mini-Soccer, U8's, U9's, & U10's to Youth age groups shall have no more than 16 teams in each division. Exceptions to this shall be considered at the discretion of the Management Committee.
 - (v) Teams due to play in a division totalling 9 or fewer before the ensuing season commences will play a 3rd League Fixture against each other and the Fixture Secretary shall be sole arbiter in deciding where the 3rd Fixture should be played. In the 3rd fixture all expenses shall be shared equally.
 - (vi) Teams playing in a division totalling 9 or fewer during the playing season due to withdrawals before the 31st January in any season will play a 3rd League Fixture against each other, the Fixture Secretary shall be the sole arbiter in deciding where the fixture should be played. In the 3rd fixture expenses for the venue and match officials shall be shared equally.
 - (vii) Clubs, if they wish, shall be permitted to enter two or more teams in the under 11's to Youth and Mini-Soccer age groups divisions.
- (C) Clubs must be represented at all monthly meetings. Failure to attend will result in a fine of £5.00 being imposed for the first non-attendance and £10.00 for any further non-attendance without apologies. Two apologies per club will be allowed per season.

2. ENTRY-FEE SUBSCRIPTION-DEPOSIT

- (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition or the entry of additional team(s) must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee of £5.00 per team, which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

At the discretion of the majority of the accredited voting members present, applications, of which due notice has been given, may be received at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting. The Entry fee shall apply.

When Rule 12(B) is applied and a team seeks a transfer or is compulsorily transferred to another division no Entry Fee shall be payable.

- (i) New Clubs wishing to become members of the Competition, having applied and been issued with an application form, must complete and returned to the Secretary by the last day in May, in the event that the Club fails to return the application form by the last day in May it shall be assumed they no longer wish to be members of the Competition. Clubs leaving another Competition to become members of this Competition, must submit a clearance certificate from their former Competition.
- (ii) The Club application fee will be taken as part payment of one teams League subscription fee, if the Club is accepted into membership of the Competition.
- (B) The Annual Subscription shall be £50.00 per Club/Team playing in 11-a-side football and £45.00 per Club/Team playing Mini-Soccer payable on or before the 14th July in each year.
- (i) The Annual Subscription includes entry into the League Knock-out Cup Competition.
- (ii) Clubs that fail to pay League Subscriptions by the 14th July shall be fined £25.00 for failing to comply and be notified and advised that if payment is still outstanding at the 31st July, they shall be deemed as having resigned from the League.
- (C) Each Club shall within 28 days of election pay a Deposit of £25.00 per team, which shall be returnable to Clubs on leaving the Competition provided they have fulfilled their fixtures and complied with all orders of the Management Committee.

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- (D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Entry Fee and Annual Subscription and Deposit have been paid.
- (E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 24th July of its B.C.F.A. affiliation number, for the forthcoming Season, Club(s) failing to comply with this rule shall be fined £5.00. Clubs must advise the Secretary in writing, or on the prescribed form, of details of its headquarters, officers and any other information required by the Competition.

3. OFFICERS

The Officers of the Competition shall be Chairman, Vice-Chairman, League Secretary, Treasurer, Registration Secretary, League Fixture Secretary, Mini-Soccer Fixture Secretary, Referees Appointment Secretary, Match Secretary, League Trophies Co-ordinator, League Welfare Officer, Results Co-ordinator, to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

4. MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

- (A) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by a Management Committee comprised of Officers and up to ten members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- (B) Retiring Officers shall be eligible to become candidates for re-election without nomination. All other candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Management Committee shall be nominated to the Secretary in writing, signed by the Secretaries of two Member Clubs, not later than the General Meeting in May in each year. Names of candidates for election shall be circulated with notice of the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting.
- (C) The Management Committee shall meet monthly at 7:30pm on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the League Headquarters, or as often as is necessary to deal with business as it arises. On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee.
 - (i) No more than two members from any one Club shall be allowed to serve on the Management Committee.

- (ii) Any member of the Management Committee who fails to attend three consecutive Committee meetings without giving an adequate apology shall be deemed to have resigned their position and the Management Committee may co-opt if it deems necessary, a member to fill the vacancy, until an appointment is made by means of a Special General meeting called for that purpose and advised to the membership prior to the next applicable General meeting.
- (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 nominated Officers.

5. POWERS OF THE 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.
- (i) **Note:** Telephone calls are not to be made to League Management Committee members after 8.00pm.
- (B) Subject to the permission of the B.C.F.A. Ltd having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any Club which may have withdrawn during the season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the season. See Rule 6(E).
- (C) Each Member of the Management Committee shall have the right to attend and vote at all Management Committee Meetings and have one vote thereat, but no Member shall be allowed to vote on any matters directly appertaining to such Member or to the Club so represented (This shall apply to procedure of any sub-committee). In the event of the voting being equal on any matter, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
- (D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules. Except where these Rules provide for the imposition of a set penalty any Club, Official or Player alleged to be in breach of a Competition Rule must be formally charged in writing and given the opportunity to present their case before the Management Committee. All breaches of the Laws of the Game, Rules and Regulations of the Football Association shall be dealt with in accordance with F.A. Rules
- (E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal to the Board of Appeal in accordance with Rules 15 and 16. Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within ten days.
- (F) Five Members of the Management Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Management Committee and three members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by any sub-committee of the Competition.

- (G) The Management Committee, as it may deem necessary, shall have power to fill in an acting capacity, any vacancies that may occur amongst their number.
- (H) A Club having failed to comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee, or failing to satisfactorily attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition shall be liable to be fined £10.00 or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- (I) All fines and charges shall be paid within fourteen days of date of posting of written notification. Clubs, Officials or individuals committing a breach of this Rule will incur such penalties as the Management Committee may impose.
 - (i) A Club failing to comply with an order or instruction of the Management Committee within the fourteen days of receipt of notice of such order or within days of an operative specified in that order, shall not be allowed to play or take in the business of the Competition until the order has been complied with and a reason for the delay has been given in writing to the League Secretary, who shall submit it to the Management Committee for their adjudication.
- (J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or match may have any expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.
- (K) The Management Committee shall have power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the Annual General or Special Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition season.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- (A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the 2nd Tuesday in June each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least fifty percent of Members are present and entitled to vote:
- (i) To receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
 - (ii) To consider any business arising there from.
 - (iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts.
 - (iv) Election of Clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Management Committee).
 - (v) Constitution of the Competition for the ensuing season.
 - (vi) Election of Officers and Management Committee.
 - (vii) Appointment of Auditors.
 - (viii) Alteration of Rules, if any (of which notice has been given).
 - (ix) Fix the date for the commencement and conclusion of the playing season.
 - (x) Other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an Annual General Meeting.
- (B) A copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounts and Agenda shall be forwarded to each Club at least fourteen days prior to the meeting, and to the B.C.F.A. Ltd.
- (C) A signed copy of the duly audited Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the B.C.F.A. Ltd within fourteen days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.
- (D) Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than fourteen days notice shall be given of any meeting.

Note: An Attendance Register is positioned at the front of the room at all meetings and is to be signed by a representative of each Club in attendance. The representative shall:

- (i) Print his or her name in the space provided.
 - (ii) Be issued with their voting card, which must be returned after the meeting.
 - (iii) Any Club failing to comply with clauses (i) and/or (ii) of this rule shall be fined £5.00.
 - (iv) Any Club representative who fails to comply with clause (i) of this Rule will not be issued with their Clubs voting card and will forfeit their Clubs right to any vote taken at the meeting.
- (E) Clubs who have withdrawn their Membership of the Competition during the season being concluded or who are not continuing Membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the season being concluded. This provision will not apply to Clubs expelled in accordance with Rule 17.
- (F) All voting shall be conducted by a show of voting cards unless a ballot be demanded by at least two thirds of the delegates qualified to vote or the Chairman so decides.
- (G) No individual shall be entitled to vote on behalf of more than one Full Member Club unless the individual is also appointed to vote as a representative.
- (H) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £5.00.
- (I) Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting.

7. AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

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

We, A-----of -----(Chairman) and B-----of----(Secretary) of the----- Football Club have been provided with a copy of the Rules and regulations of the ---- Competition and do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club to, if elected or accepted into Membership, conform to these Rules and regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rules 15/16.

Any alteration of the Chairman or Secretary on the above Agreement must be notified to the B.C.F.A. Ltd to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary of the Competition.

8. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

- (A) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, are not permitted in this Competition. No player registered with a F.A. Premier League or Football League Academy will be permitted to play in this Competition.
- (i) Players who register with either an Academy or Centre of Excellence Club. Their registration with this Competition becomes invalid and the Competition Registration Secretary shall deregister the player.
- (B) A registered youth playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:
- (i) Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, countersigned by his or her Parent or Guardian, and by an Officer of the Club and who has registered with the Registration Secretary twenty four hours (24) to playing. The registration document must incorporate any known serious medical conditions of the player and emergency contact details of the players parents or guardians. These details must be available at matches and training events the player attends within the management of the Club or Competition.
- (ii) Once the Registration Secretary as received the players and Team Official(s) fully completed registration form(s) and two recently taken passport size identification photographs, which the Registration Secretary shall approve. The team's players and team Official(s) identification cards shall be issued to the Club Secretaries.
- (iii) No player's identification cards shall be issued to the Club Secretary until the teams Official(s) identification card(s) for the ensuing season has been processed and approved by the Registration Secretary.
- (iv) The player(s) photographs submitted to the Registration Secretary for their identification card must have the player(s) face fully visible and be submitted without the player wearing any headgear, Exceptions to headgear shall be on religious grounds or at the discretion of the Management Committee.

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- (v) Every player to be registered to play for a Club in this Competition for the first time must make available to the League Registration Secretary a correctly completed registration form, two passport size photographs and Birth Certificate or other official document issued by a Government Agency for the player's date of birth' seeking registration.
- (vi) All players must be registered for each of their teams at least ten days prior to the commencement of the season, irrespective of whether a team has a match or bye on the first week. Clubs shall be fined £30.00 for each of their teams failing to comply with this Rule. The maximum total fine that may be levied against a Club in any one season for failing to comply with this rule shall be £60.00.
- (vii) The registration of players and Team Official(s) for the ensuing season will take place on three registration evenings 'date and venue' to be decided by the League Management Committee at the A.G.M..

Once the criterion of Rule 8(B) has been met, additional players to be registered after the commencement of the season shall be made by appointment or by post to the Registration Secretary. Players must be registered at least twenty-four hours (24) before an impending fixture. Exceptions to this Rule shall be considered at the discretion of the Registration Secretary.

The qualification age dates for the Competition shall be as follows:

Mini-Soccer

Under 7 - the player must have attained the age of 6 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season but must be under 7 as at midnight on the 31st August in the playing season.

Under 8 - the player must be under the age of 8 as at midnight on the 31st August in the playing season.

Under 9 - the player must be under the age of 9 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 10 - the player must be under the age of 10 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

In accordance with the foregoing qualifications a player in the above age ranges must not play in a match where any other player is older or younger by 2 years or more.

Youth Football

Under 11 - the player must have attained the age of 10 but must be under the age of 11 by midnight 31st August in the playing season.

Under 12's must be 10 or 11 and not reached 12 years old, at midnight, August 31st in the playing season.

Under 13's must be 11 or 12 and not reached 13 years old, at midnight, August 31st in the playing season.

Under 14's must be 12 or 13 and not reached 14 years old, at midnight, August 31st in the playing season.

Under 15's must be 13 or 14 and not reached 15 years old, at midnight, August 31st in the playing season.

Under 16's must be 14 or 15 and not reached 16 years old, at midnight, August 31st in the playing season.

Youths must be 15 or 16 or 17 and not reached 18 years old, at midnight, August 31st in the playing season.

In accordance with the foregoing qualifications a player under the age of 14 as at midnight 31st August in the playing season must not play in a match where any other player is older or younger by 2 years or more.

Note: Age Qualification for the Sunday B.C.F.A. Minor Cup players must be 14 years of age or over and under 16 years of age at midnight on the 31st August in any season. B.C.F.A. Sunday Youth Cup players must be under 18 years of age at midnight on the 31st August in any season.

The above qualification dates are subject to the provisions contained in F.A. Rule C4(a)(v).

(viii) Players who have not reached the age of 6 years of age at midnight on the 31st August shall not be registered to play in this Competition in the ensuing season.

(C) Not applicable.

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- (D) A player having taken part in matches for any Club affiliated to any County Football Association shall not be allowed to join, be transferred to, or sign for a Club in the Competition without first proving to the officials of the intended Club that the player has discharged all reasonable financial liabilities to the previous Club or Clubs, and a Club official may not accept such player's signature without first ascertaining whether such claims have been discharged to the satisfaction of the Club, or Clubs, for which the player last played.
- (E) Registration forms shall be obtained from the Registration Secretary on payment of Clubs League Fees.
- (i) The mini-soccer age groups will be provided with eighteen forms, twenty forms will be provided for each team playing in the Under 11's and 16's age groups, and twenty-four forms for teams playing in the Youth Divisions.
 - (ii) Should teams require any additional Registration forms, for whatever reason, a charge of 50 pence per form shall be made.
 - (iii) Every team in the mini-soccer age groups shall be allowed to sign up to the last day in February each season a maximum of eighteen players but have no more than fourteen registered at the one time. Teams in the Under 11's to 16's age groups shall be allowed to sign up to the last day in February each season a maximum of twenty players but have no more than sixteen players registered at any one time. Teams in the Youth Divisions shall be allowed to sign up to the last day in February each season a maximum of twenty-four players, but have no more than twenty players registered at any one time. Exceptions to clause (i) of this Rule shall be considered at the discretion of the Management Committee.
- (F) The Management Committee shall decide all registration disputes. In the event of a player signing a registration form or having a registration submitted for more than one Club priority of registration shall be decide for which Club the player shall be registered. The Registration Secretary shall notify the Club last applying to register the player of the fact of the previous registration.

- (G) It shall be deemed misconduct for a player to:
- (i) Play for more than one Club in the Competition in the same season without being transferred.
 - (ii) Having signed for one Club in the Competition, sign for another Club in the Competition in that season except for the purpose of a transfer.
 - (iii) Submit a signed registration form for registration that the player had wilfully neglected to accurately or fully complete.
- (H) (i) The Management Committee shall have power to accept the registration of any player.
- (ii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse, cancel or suspend the registration of any player or may fine any player at their discretion who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities. (Subject to Rule 15/16).
- (iii) The Management Committee shall have power to refuse or cancel the registration of any player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 15/16). Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated conduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this Competition.

NOTE: Action under clause (iii) shall not be taken against a player for misconduct until the matter has been dealt with by the appropriate Association, and then only in cases of the player bringing the Competition into disrepute.

- (I) Subject to the Football Association Rules dealing with players without written contract when a player desires a transfer, the Club the player wishes to transfer to shall submit a transfer form to the Registration Secretary accompanied by a fee of £10.00. Such transfer shall be referred by the Registration Secretary to the Club for which the player is registered. Should this Club object to the transfer it should state its objections in writing to the Registrations Secretary and to the player concerned within seven days of receipt of transfer form. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within seven days, the Registration Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club after receipt of such transfer. **Note: A new players Identification card will be issued to the players new Club.**

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

- (i) Regulations concerning approaches during the current season any Club wishing to approach a player known to be registered with any other Club must give to the Secretary of each Club seven days formal written notice of the intention to approach the player.

Please note: Written notice of approach need to be given by:

- (A) Player registered for a Saturday Club only to all Saturday Clubs
- (B) Player registered for a Sunday Club only to all Sunday Clubs
- (ii) If a player has been de-registered for a period of four weeks or more, the player may sign for another team without it counting as a transfer transaction. A new registration form must be completed and submitted to the Registration Secretary. If a player signs for another team within four weeks of being de-registered it will count as a transfer transaction.
- (iii) Any age group player wishing to register for a new Club must obtain from his/her previous registered Club, a clearance letter that all obligations to that Club have been discharged before his/her new Club submit the new registration form to the League Registration Secretary.
- (iv) Provided a player has fulfilled his/her obligations, no Club shall hold a player against such player's wishes.
- (J) A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after the last day in February except by special permission of the Management Committee.
- (K) A Club shall keep a list of players it registers and a record of games in which they have played, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee. In the event a Club has more than one team in an age group, each team must be clearly designated (Red) and (Blue) or (Green) (Colts) (Rovers) etc. In such cases, players will be registered for one team only. A player so registered will be allowed to play for his or her Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 8(B).
- (i) Each Club will be held responsible for ensuring the eligibility of their players.

- (ii) When a player has been suspended by the County Football Association or the Schools F.A. or the League, the players' Identification card must be returned to the League Secretary, for the period the suspension covers. Clubs not complying with this Rule, within three days of start of a suspension, shall be fined £10.00.
 - (iii) Team Managers shall give their players Identification cards to the opposing team Manager before the commencement of each game. Teams failing to comply with this rule shall be fined £20.00 for each non-compliance.
 - (iv) Team Managers shall be entitled to keep the oppositions players Identification cards for the duration of the match, if so desired, but must return them at the end of the game. Clubs who fail to comply with this Rule shall be fined £10.00, for each non-compliance.
 - (v) Failure to produce players Identification cards shall not be any reason to postpone a fixture, failure to produce players Identification cards to the Opposition Team Manager. The Manager shall be entitled to request the signatures of the players next to their names on the team sheet supplied. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be fined £10.00.
 - (vi) Clubs shall be required to give in writing notification within three days to the League Secretary the names of player(s) or Team Official(s) whose identification cards have been lost or misplaced, new passport size photographs of the player(s) or team Official(s) must be submitted to the Registration Secretary for replacement Identification Card(s) within the time scale instructed by the League Secretary in writing to the Club. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be fined £30.00 for each non-compliance.
- (L) A register containing the names of all players registered for each Club, with the date of registration shall be kept by the Registrations Secretary and shall be open to the inspection of any duly appointed Member Club representative at all Management Committee meetings or at other times mutually arranged. Registrations are valid for one season only.
- (i) At the conclusion of the season as determined at the A.G.M. the players registration terminates this is subject to the Football Association Rules.

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- (M) A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match (as specified in Rule 12(A) unless the player has played four games for that team in this Competition in the current season.
- (N) Not applicable.
- (O)
 - (i) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player shall have the points gained from the match deducted from its total and shall be fined up to £20.00 or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.
 - (ii) In addition the team shall have three points deducted from its total at the discretion of the Management Committee and may be dealt with in any further manner which is thought to be fit.
 - (iii) The Management Committee in exceptional circumstances may, at its discretion, award any points deducted from a Club under this Rule to the opponents in the match in question, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.
 - (iv) Any Management Committee member has the power to impose any check necessary to determine the Qualification of players under Rule 8. Including the inspection of players Identification cards. Teams failing to comply with this Rule shall incur a £10.00 fine.

(The following Clause applies to Competitions involving players in full-time secondary education)

- (P)
 - (i) Priority must be given at all times to school and school organisations activities.
 - (ii) The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday Competitions).
 - (iii) Children under 14 shall not play in a team involving players who are more than 2 years older.

9. CLUB COLOURS-CLUB NAME

- (A) Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the League Secretary by the 31st July who shall decide as to their suitability.

Goalkeepers must wear colours, which distinguish them from other players and the referee.

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

Any team not being able to play in its normal colours as registered with the Competition shall notify the colours in which they will play to their opponents at least four days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the away team shall make the change. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off by not having a change shall be fined £5.00.

The Secretary of the Competition may request shirts to be submitted if complaints are received as to lack of distinguishing colours, and the Management Committee may refuse to permit any shirts or shorts as they think fit.

- (i) In the event that the away team does not have a change of colours and the Referee declares he/she will not play the match because the colours are similar, they shall forfeit the fixture and the points shall be awarded to the opponents. They shall also pay the whole amount of the Referees fee and cost of the pitch to the home team, providing the home team produce proof, within seven days of the scheduled fixture, that the Club had to pay for the venue. The Management Committee shall have the power to impose a fine not exceeding £10.00 on a team causing the fixture to be cancelled under this Rule.
- (B) Any Club wishing to change its name and/or colours must obtain permission from its affiliated County Football Association and from the Management Committee.
- (i) Advertising on players clothing is allowed by the Football Association and shall be as defined in the B.C.F.A. Ltd directory, in accordance with the B.C.F.A. Ltd instruction, Clubs must advise the Competition of the name or logo they propose advertising and receive the Competitions written permission before proceeding.

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

- (A) The Annual General Meeting shall determine the commencing and concluding dates for the ensuing season, which shall be in accordance with Football Association Rules. No Club shall be compelled to play after the concluding date. Original fixtures arranged by the Fixture Secretary, or at a meeting specially convened for that purpose, to be held no later than 31st July, must not arranged for a date later than seven days preceding the concluding date determined by the Annual General Meeting.
- (i) Fixtures are deemed to be accepted unless objections are received by the Fixture Secretaries within fourteen days of their issue.
- (ii) Any Matches outstanding after the concluding date for the ensuing season agreed at the A.G.M. of Sunday 18th May 2008 shall be made **VOID (NOT TO BE PLAYED)**. However, in extenuating circumstances, the season may be extended.
- (B) All matches shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the game as determined by the International Football Association Board or, for Mini-Soccer, the Laws of Mini-Soccer as set down by The Football Association.

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

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

All matches shall have a duration as set out below unless a shorter time (not less than 20 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.

For Mini-Soccer -

The recommended duration of play shall be as follows for under 7 and under 8 age groups, 10 minutes each way and for under 9 and under 10, 15/25 minutes each way. The maximum playing time in any one day for under 7 and under 8 age groups is 45 minutes and for under 9's and under 10's age groups is 60 minutes.

For Youth Football -

The duration of play shall be as follows unless it is mutually agreed by all parties to reduce the time. For under 11's and under 12's 30 minutes each half, for under 13's 14's 35 minutes each half and under 15's and under 16's 40 minutes each half, under 17's and under 18's 45 minutes each half.

The minimum time for any game will not be less than 20 minutes each half for players in the under 14 age group and below and 25 minutes each half for all other age groups.

No player under the age of 17 as at midnight on 31st August in any season shall be permitted to play more than one game or, in the event the competition allows the playing of a double-header, i.e.: two separate matches, 100 minutes per day in this Competition.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed at the A.G.M. or the Management Committee. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time of 11am or 1:30pm shall be fined a sum not exceeding £10.00 or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

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

The home team must provide at least two footballs fit to play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. The recommended size of football to be used: For Mini-Soccer, size 3 for players in the under 7's and 8's age categories, size 4 for under 9's and 10's. For youth football -size 4 for those playing under 11's 12's 13's 14's age groups, size 5 for all other age groups. Goal nets and flag posts must be used.

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- (i) Kick-off times in the Competition for the ensuing season are 11am & 1:30pm. Teams can agree a new kick-off time subject to agreement by both teams Officials and the Referee informed of the agreed kick-off time.
 - (ii) In the under 8's Competition teams may bring a match forward or agree a new kick-off time subject to the agreement by both teams Officials.
 - (iii) The home and away teams must have a first aid kits at all matches.
 - (iv) Whist treating players' injuries only spray water bottles and Medi-Wipes should be used. **Buckets and Sponges must not be used for the treatment of any injuries.**
- (C) Except by permission of the Management Committee all matches must be played on the dates originally fixed but priority shall be given to The Football Association and all relevant County Association Cup Competitions. All other matches must be considered secondary. Clubs may mutually agree to bring forward a match with the consent of the Fixture Secretaries.
- (i) The Fixture Secretary and the Mini Fixture Secretary shall have the power to reschedule any fixture(s) up to five days prior to the game.
- (D) The Secretary of the home Club must give notice in writing of full particulars of the location of, and access to, the ground and time of kick-off to the referee and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least four clear days prior to playing of the match.
- Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to fine not exceeding £30.00.
- (E) Every Club must play its best available qualified team or teams in all matches in the Competition. In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than eleven players in 11-a-side football or seven players in Mini-Soccer A minimum of seven players will constitute a team for 11's and Youth Competition matches, and a minimum of five players will constitute a team in the Mini-Soccer Competition matches.

- (F) Home and away matches shall be played. In the event of a Club failing to keep its engagement the Management Committee shall have power to inflict a fine of £30.00, deduct points from the defaulting Club, award the points to the opponents, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals.

Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have the power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.

Any club unable to fulfil a fixture must, without delay, give notice to the Fixture Secretary, the Competition Referees Appointment Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing Club and the match officials. Any Club failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Management Committee who may inflict any penalty it may deem suitable.

In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the Fixture Secretary within five days the Management Committee shall have power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date.

The Management Committee shall review all matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to award the points for the match to the opponents and/or take what other action they may deem necessary. In cases where a match is abandoned owing to conduct of both teams or their Club members, the Management Committee shall take such action, as they consider appropriate. Such action is subject to any disciplinary action taken by the appropriate "Affiliated" Association.

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- (i) Any team failing to appear within 20 minutes after the schedule kick-off times of 11am or 1:30pm or with fewer than seven players or fewer than five players for the mini-soccer age groups shall, subject to not giving a satisfactory explanation, forfeit the fixture, and the points shall be awarded to the opponents. In the event that the away team are the defaulting team they shall pay the whole amount of the Referees fee, and also the cost of the ground to the home team, providing the home team produce written proof, within seven days that the Club had to pay for the venue.
- (ii) Each team shall be permitted one stand down per season providing a minimum of two weeks prior notice in writing or e-mail is given by the Club Secretary to the League Secretary, or at the discretion of the Fixture Secretary or the Mini Fixture Secretary. No other cancellations, other than those provisions contained in Rule 10(F)(iii) or for adverse weather conditions or the ground being declared unfit for play shall be permitted.
- (iii) The only acceptable reason for a postponement of a fixture other than the provisions of Rule 10(F)(ii). The pitch being declared unfit for play by the referee or the representative of the owners of the ground a number of players (5) or more playing in the under 11's to Youth age groups being involved in school activities or commitments or a number of players (3) or more playing in the mini-soccer age groups being involved in school activities or commitments. In the case of the school activities or commitments, the names of the players involved and the school(s) attended must be entered on the fixture postponement form and forwarded by the Club Secretary to the Competition Secretary for verification with the school(s) administrator.
- (iv) In the event that it is known by 3pm on the day before a scheduled fixture, including League Cup fixtures, that the home teams pitch is unfit for play, the fixture must be switched to the away teams pitch if available and fit for play. All scheduled kick-off times will apply. Teams failing to comply with this rule shall be fined £10.00 at the discretion of the Management Committee, the match can either be awarded to the opponents of any team failing to comply with this rule or to declare the fixture void (not to be played) teams may bring a match forward and or agree a new kick-off time subject to agreement by both teams officials.

- (v) All matches must be played on the dates stipulated on the fixture list issued, this is subject to Rule (F)(ii).
 - (vi) In the event that both grounds are unfit for play or unavailable the 'home team' officials must contact the Fixture Secretary or the League Secretary, to ascertain whether the League can provide an alternative venue. If no alternative venue is available, the fixture will be rescheduled. Whilst matches will normally be played on a Sunday, the Fixture Secretary shall have the power to instruct teams to play midweek games should fixture congestion or other circumstances require it, teams to agree am/pm kick-off time.
 - (vii) For fixtures scheduled in midweek, opposing Clubs team officials must consult each other during the week prior to the fixture and try and reach agreement on which day during the following week the fixture will be played. In the event that agreement cannot be reached the fixture must be played on the Wednesday evening (Subject to Rule 8(P)). The 'home team' must give particulars of situation of ground to official(s) of the opposing team and the referee no later than four clear days before a midweek fixture is to be played. Any team failing to comply with this rule shall be fined a sum not exceeding £30.00.
 - (viii) Teams available for fixtures during any bank holiday period should advise the Fixture Secretary or Mini-Fixture Secretary of their availability.
- (G) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the game use five substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from five players.

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

For Youth Football teams in the under 16's age group and below, a player who has been substituted himself becomes a substitute and may replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with Law 3 of the Laws of Association Football.

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The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than ten minutes before the start of the match.

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

- (i) Teams playing in the Under 11's to Under 16's age groups, may be permitted to play all five named substitutes and a player who has been substituted during a match himself becomes a substitute and may, in turn, replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with F.A. Law 3 repeated substitutes.
- (ii) Teams playing in the Mini-Soccer age groups, may be permitted to play seven named substitutes and a player who has been substituted during a match he or she themselves become a substitute and may, in turn, replace another player at any time subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with F.A. Law 3 repeated substitutes.
- (iii) Teams playing in the Youth Division shall be permitted to use all five named substitutes at any time during their matches but cannot make repeat substitutions.
- (iv) The team sheet supplied by the 'home team' shall represent the only official record of the players and substitutes participating in League or Cup fixtures and shall be fully completed by a responsible member of each Club and submitted to the referee not later than ten minutes before start of the match. Failure to comply with clause (iv) of this rule shall result in a fine of £20.00

Player(s) appearing on the team sheet but not actually entering the field of play during a match shall have his or her name(s) crossed out and initialled by the Club official.

Substitutes who actually play in the match must have their names ticked in the box provided for on the team sheet by the Referee.

- (H) The half-time interval shall be a minimum of five minutes duration but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half-time interval may only be altered with the consent of the Referee.

11. REPORTING RESULTS

- (A) The Match Secretary must receive within four days of the date played, the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surnames of the team players (in block letters) and also the Referee markings required by Rule 13. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £20.00 and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.
- (B) The match result and names of all goal scorers must be telephoned or emailed by a representative of the 'home team' to the appropriate age group representative between the hours of 6pm and 7pm on the day of the fixture. This includes all outside cup completions results from the Birmingham County Cup Completion the Bedworth Nursing Cup, and Tamworth invitation Cup. Midweek match results the age group representative to be informed within 48hrs of the match played. Teams failing to comply with this rule shall be fined a sum not exceeding £20.00.

N.B.: This will allow the League Fixture Secretary to reschedule any matches where the Birmingham County Cup takes precedence over scheduled League games.

- (C) The match result notification, correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club. The Management Committee shall have power to take such action as they deem suitable against a Club, which submits an incomplete form or incorrect information.

12. DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

- (A) Team ranking within the Competition will 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. **Matches must not be played for double points.**

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points team ranking will be decided in any one or more of the following ways: To determine Division winners, and Division runners up.

- (i) The results during the season shall be scrutinised and the team with the best record against the other(s) will be declared the higher finisher.

Note: goal average, goal difference, goals scored, will not form part of the scrutinising system in this Competition.

- (ii) Clause (i) shall apply to determine relegated teams ranking in the event of two or more teams being equal on points.
- (iii) Deciding matches shall be played at a neutral venue if available.

Note Examples: (1) & (2)

- (1) In the two games played against each other during the season, team (A) beat team (B) in the first game, and the second game was drawn, team (A) having gained four points as opposed to the one point gained by team (B) would be declared the higher ranking finishers. A Referee and Assistant Referees if available will be allocated for any deciding match(s) the expenses to be shared equally by both teams.
- (2) In the event of more than two (2) teams tying on equal points at the conclusion of the season, all the league matches played between the tying teams during the season shall be scrutinised, team B beat team A twice: team A beat team C twice: and team C Drew one and won one against team B, the points gained by the tying teams would be Team A 6pts, Team B 7pts, Team C 4pts, Team B would be the higher ranking finisher.

- (B) Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first two and last two teams in the Under 11's and 16's age groups except as provided for hereunder subject to the provisions of Rule I(B).
- (i) Should one or more teams withdraw from any one Division after the fixtures have commenced an equal number of teams to those withdrawing in that Division shall not be automatically relegated?
 - (ii) Vacancies occurring after the conclusion of the season may be filled on any of the following ways:
 - (a) Retention of otherwise relegated team(s)
 - (b) Additional promotion of the next ranked team(s) from the Division below.
 - (c) Election/recommended by the Management Committee.
- (C) In the event of a team not completing its fixtures for the season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting team shall be expunged from the Competition table.
- (D) The bottom two teams in Division (A) and (B) of each of the age groups from Under 11's to Under 16's may be relegated.

In the event of a Club not being placed in the bottom two Clubs at the end of the season wishing to resign from the Competition at the end of the season, or having been excluded under Rule 17(A) only one Club will be relegated at the end of the season.

13. REFEREES

- (A) Registered Referees and Assistant Referees for all matches shall be appointed in a manner approved by the Management Committee and by the sanctioning Association(s).
- (B) In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed Referee the appointed senior Assistant Referee shall take charge and a substitute Assistant Referee appointed by the competing Teams. In cases where there are no officially appointed Assistant Referees, or where the competition has been unable to appoint a Referee, the Clubs shall agree upon a Referee. A Referee thus agreed upon shall, for that game, have the full powers, status and authority of a registered Referee.
- (i) To determine who Referees, should the two Clubs representatives disagree the 'home team' will implement clause(ii).
 - (ii) Toss a coin, the 'away team' representative shall call and the winner shall referee the game.
 - (iii) The Referee thus decided is entitled to payment in the Under 11's to Youth Divisions only.
 - (iv) The entitlement of payment shall not apply to the Mini-Soccer Competition. Only Referees registered with their County F.A. and appointed by the League will be entitled to payment.
 - (v) If clause (ii) of this rule is not adhered to, the Management Committee shall have the power to declare the fixture void (not to be played) and at its discretion fine both teams, up to a maximum of £10.00 for failing to comply.
 - (vi) In the event the Referee was not appointed in the manner approved under League Rule 13(A) and the 'home team' have the services of a match official the 'home team' must inform the 'away team' of the non-allocation by the League of the Referee prior to the match which then allows the 'away team' representative if they disagree to the Referee to invoke clauses (i)(ii) of Rule 13(B). Failure by the 'home team' to comply to Rule 13(B) clause (vi), and in the event the 'home team' won the match the League Management Committee shall have the power to declare the fixture void (not to be played) and fine the 'home team', up to a maximum of £10.00 for failing to comply with the rule.

- (C) The Management Committee may, if they consider it desirable, or upon application by two competing Clubs, appoint Assistant Referees, if available, to any match. Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to do so will result in a fine £15.00 being imposed on the defaulting Club.
- (D) The appointed Referee shall have power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches and the decision shall be final subject to either in the case of a ground of a Local Authority or the owners of a ground, the representative of that body is the sole arbiter and whose decision must be accepted unless the ground is declared fit to play.
- (i) The League's appointed Referee, or the person nominated to officiate the match, has the authority to reduce the duration time played by 10 minutes each way due to inclement weather or where the elements may reduce the light, to complete the fixture. Both teams to be informed before kick-off.
- (E) Match Officials appointed under this rule shall be entitled to charge a fee determined at the A.G.M. and registered Referees appointed by the Management Committee, as Assistant Referees shall be entitled to receive a fee determined at the A.G.M. subject to any limits laid down by the sanctioning Association(s). These fees shall be deemed to include standard class public transport expenses.

The Home Club shall pay the Officials their fees and expenses immediately after the match.

- (i) Each Club shall, pay 50% of the Officials fee. The home team shall be held responsible for ensuring the fee has been paid, and shall collect the away team's contributions. In the event that an Official is not paid the fee, the offending team(s) shall be fined £10.00 plus the outstanding portion of the fee.
- (ii) Match Officials fees for the ensuing season: Mini-Soccer, age-group 8's, 9's, 10's - £10.00. Under 11's to under 14's age-groups - £18.00 per game. Under 15's age-group to Youth shall be £22.00 per game; the Assistant Referees fee £15.00.
- (F) In the event of a match not being played because of circumstances over which the Clubs have no control, the Match Officials, if present, shall be entitled to half fee. Where a match is not played owing to one Club being in default, that Club shall be ordered to pay the Officials, if they attend the ground, their full fee and expenses.

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- (G) A Referee not keeping his or her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, may be reported to the Association with which he or she is registered.
- (H) Each Club shall, in a manner prescribed from time to time by the Football Association, award marks to the Referee for each match and the name of the Referee and the marks awarded shall be submitted to the Competition on the team sheet provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined £10.00 or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.
- (I) The Competition shall keep a record of the markings and, on the Form provided by the prescribed date each season, shall submit a summary to the County Football Association.
 - (i) Clubs teams awarding marks to the Referee of 50 or less shall detail in writing to the Referee Appointment Secretary their reasons for the low assessment within seven days of the fixture. Teams failing to comply with this Rule shall be fined £10.00.
- (J) Not applicable
- (K) Referees and Assistant Referees shall be supplied, each season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.

14. CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP / WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

- (A) After 31st December in the current season a 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 by the 31st March each season or be liable to a fine not exceeding £30.00.
- (i) Clubs in membership of the Competition may be issued at the April General meeting with an Application form inviting them for continuation of membership to be endorsed at the A.G.M. Clubs failing to return their Application form by the A.G.M. shall be deemed as having resigned from the Competition and will not be represented for the ensuing season.
- (ii) Clubs failing to discharge all its financial and other obligations at the conclusion of the season shall not be allowed to participate in the Competition for the ensuing season until all obligations and finances are discharged in full.
- (B) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition after the Annual General meeting or after the arrangement of fixtures for the following season. Any Club infringing this rule shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £20.00 per team and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 5(B)
- (C) The Membership for the coming season having been decided at the Annual General meeting held not later than the second Tuesday in June, the Competition shall have the right, irrespective of other provisions in this Rule, to refuse to permit a Club to withdraw its team(s) in order to join another Competition and may hold the Club to its engagements.
- (D) In the event of a Member Club which is un-incorporated association withdrawing and/or disbanding it shall be immediately liable to discharge all its financial and other obligations to the Competition.

In the event that any such obligation remains undischarged after a period of twenty-one (21) days then such obligation shall be met by the then current Club Members, excluding those under the statutory school leaving age. Until a member's pro rata obligation is discharged in full the member shall not be allowed to participate in the Competition, which may apply to the Club's Parent County Association for a suspension order.

15. PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

- (A) (i) All questions of eligibility, qualification of players or Interpretations of Rules shall be referred to the Management Committee.
- (ii) Objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, flag posts or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Management Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match. Any Club lodging such protest and not proceeding with it shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this Rule and shall be dealt with by the Management Committee.
- (B) Except in cases where the Management Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged in duplicate with the Secretary within seven (7) days (excluding Sundays) of the match or occurrence to which they refer. A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Management Committee. A Member of the Management Committee who is a member of any Club involved shall not be present (except as a witness or representative of his or her Club) when such protest or complaint is being determined.
- (C) Any dispute occurring between Clubs in the Competition shall be referred for determination by the Management Committee whose decision shall be binding upon all parties subject to Rule 15/16.
- (D) No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Management Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the Secretary a sum of £10.00. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by both parties.
- (E) All parties to a protest or complaint must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement when the protest or complaint is being heard and must have received seven (7) days notice of the hearing, together with a copy of the submission. When dealing with a protest or complaint the Management Committee shall take into consideration the possession by the protesting or complaining Club of any information of which, if properly used, might have avoided the protest or complaint.

- (i) A Club, player or Club Official, against whom action is taken within seven (7) days of receipt by them of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee, may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate, to the League Secretary. An Appeal Sub-Committee will be convened within fourteen (14) days and the findings of the Appeal Sub-Committee will be referred to the Management Committee. The League Secretary shall within fourteen days notify in writing the Club/s, player's, or Club Official, of the outcome of the appeal hearing subject to Rule 16.
- (ii) Each member Club, by no later than the General meeting of September, shall be required to nominate, on the Leagues Sub-Committee Appeal Form, one Club Official, to serve on any Appeal Sub-Committee, if called upon.
- (iii) The League Appeal Sub-Committee shall consist of:
 - (1) A minimum of 3 (Three) members who shall be selected by the League Secretary from the list of nominees forwarded by the member Clubs on the League Sub-Committee Appeal Form. The nominees shall nominate one of their number to act as Chairperson at the time of the appeal who shall have a casting vote in the event of the voting being equal.
 - (2) The members of the Appeal Sub-Committee shall not be associated with any Club(s) involved in the appeal or have any direct responsibility as Manager or Assistant Manager for a team in the same age group.

16. BOARD OF APPEAL

Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or Competition a Club, Official or Player against whom action is taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars in duplicate with the Secretary of the Birmingham County Football Association Ltd, including a fee of £25.00 for adjudication of the Board of Appeal. The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with F.A. Rules. The Board of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and shall decide by whom the costs of the appeal shall be borne. The decision of the Board of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned. No appeal can be lodged against a decision taken at an Annual or Special General Meeting unless this is on the ground of unconstitutional conduct.

17. EXCLUSION OF CLUBS OR TEAMS, MISCONDUCT, CLUBS OFFICIALS, PLAYERS.

- (A) At the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, Notice of Motion having been duly circulated on the Agenda, the accredited delegates present shall have the power to exclude any Club or Team from further membership which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds (2/3rds) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot.
- (B) At the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, the accredited delegates present shall have power to exclude from further participation in the Competition any Club or team of a Club whose conduct has, in their opinion, been undesirable which must be supported by (more than) two-thirds (2/3rds) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.
- (C) Any official or member of a Club proved guilty of either a breach of Rule, other than field offences, or of inducing or attempting to induce a player or players of another Club in the Competition to join them shall be liable to expulsion or such penalty as a General Meeting or Management Committee may decide, and their Club shall also be liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (A) and (B) of this Rule.

- (i) Every Club is responsible for the actions of its players, Officials and spectators. A Club shall be guilty of misconduct if it fails to satisfy the Management Committee that it's taken all reasonable precautions to prevent spectators throwing missiles on to the pitch and /or assaulting or threatening Officials or players, before during or after matches, Clubs are also required to prevent the use of objectionable language. Any Club Official member or associate member, found guilty of misconduct the Club shall:
 - (ii) Appear before the Management Committee and liable to expulsion in accordance with the provisions of Clauses (A) (B) and (C) of this Rule.
- (D) Any Club or Team failing to complete all its fixtures in any season shall (unless the conditions are beyond their control, or the accredited delegates present at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting decide otherwise by a majority of two-thirds of votes cast) be debarred from membership the following season.

18. TROPHY: LEGAL OWNERS, CONDITIONS OF TAKING OVER, AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED, AWARDS.

- (A) If a Competition be discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the Donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the sanctioning Association may decide.
- (i) At the close of each Competition awards may be made to the winners and runners-up if funds of the Competition permit.
- (B) The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the Cup or Trophy: "We A-----and B-----, The Chairman and Secretary of -----F.C. members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of ----- Cup or Trophy, and it having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the Cup or Trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before 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.
- (i) Cups or Trophies not returned by Clubs on or before the 31st March of the current playing season shall be fined £10.00 and a further fine of £5.00, will be imposed for each week or part week that the Cup or Trophy is not returned to the Competition.
- (ii) Clubs who have won Cups or Trophies as winners or runners up shall arrange for their Clubs name year/season won, to be engraved on the award. In the event that the Cups or Trophies are returned without having been engraved, the League shall arrange for the Cup or Trophies to be engraved and the cost of the engraving charged to the Club and the Club shall be fined £10.00. Cups or Trophies returned dirty or damaged the offending Club will be responsible for cost of cleaning and/or repair.
- (iii) Clubs who intend to withdraw from the Competition who have won Cups or Trophies in the concluding season, shall arrange for their Clubs name year/season won, to be engraved on the award and the Cups or Trophies to be returned to the League Trophies Co-ordinator by September 30th of the ensuing season.

19. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Clubs in membership the Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting. The Management Committee may call a Special Meeting at any time.

At least twenty-one days notice shall be given of either meeting under this Rule, together with an agenda of the business to be transacted at such meeting. Each Full Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Not less than seven days notice shall be given of any meeting. Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £5.00.

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

20. ALTERATION TO RULES

Alteration shall be made to these Rules only at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting specially convened for the purpose called in accordance with Rule 19. Any alteration made during the playing season to the rule relating to qualification of players shall not take effect until the following season.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by March 1st in each year. The proposals together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by April 14th and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by April 30th. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a rule shall be carried if a majority present and entitled to vote are in favour.

A copy of the proposed alterations to Rules to be considered at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the sanctioning Football Association fourteen days prior to the date of the meeting.

Any alterations or additions decided upon at any meeting shall not become operative until the approval of the Association issuing sanction shall have been obtained. date of the

21. RULES BINDING ON CLUBS

Each Member Club shall be deemed to have given its assent to the forgoing Rules and agreed to abide by the decision of the Management Committee subject to Rule 16. Each Member Club must abide by any issued Football Association Code of Conduct.

- (i) Drinking of alcohol during the match, within the immediate vicinity of the playing area is strictly forbidden. Any Club whose Officials or supporters are found guilty of this offence will be fined a sum of £100.00 and/or dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

22. FINANCE

- (A) The Management Committee shall determine with which bank or other financial institution the funds of the Competition will be lodged.
- (B) All expenditure in excess of £50.00 shall be approved by the Management Committee. Cheques shall be signed by at least two Officers nominated by the Management Committee.
- (C) The financial year of the Competition will end on 30th April.
- (D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of the Competition shall be audited annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

Knock-Out Cup Competition Rules

The League Rules and 'Home Team' kick-off times shall apply to the Cup Competition with the following additions

- (A) All age group teams automatically qualify to play in the Leagues individual age group Knock-out Cup Competition.
- (B) Age Qualification of players, named substitutes and the duration of playing time for each age group Cup fixtures shall be as per League Rule 8B(v) 10G (i) (ii) (iii)
- (C) In the event that the scores are equal at the end of normal time in the Preliminary Rounds, Quarter-Finals and Semi-Finals, extra time shall be played.
 - (i) The Mini-Soccer Competition shall play 5 minutes each way.
 - (ii) The under 11's to under 16's shall play 10 minutes each way.
 - (iii) The Youth Division teams shall play 15 minutes each way.
 - (iv) If scores are still equal after extra time, penalties shall be taken to decide the winner.
 - (v) Penalties shall be taken in accordance with F.I.F.A. Rules to decide winners.
 - (vi) In the event that teams have not complied with clauses (i) (ii) (iii) or (iv) (v) of this Rule the Management Committee shall have power to remove both teams from the Cup Competition and fine the teams £10.00 unless a satisfactory explanation is submitted in writing, within 7 days of the match, to the League Secretary.
- (D) In all age groups Cup Finals if the scores are still equal after extra time has been played penalties shall not be taken, the two finalists will share honours and Cup equally.
- (E) In the event that teams contesting the Cup finals have the same kit colours, a draw shall be made at the preceding League General Meeting or as soon as the finalists are known, the team drawn first shall have the right to play in their first choice colours. The opponents will have to play in alternative colours.

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- (F) Referees shall be appointed for all Semi-Finals, and Finals. The Semi-Finals will be played on the pitch of the team drawn out first. Finals will be played on venues determined by the Management Committee.
- (G) The League shall appoint assistant Referees for Semi-Finals, for age groups 11's to Youth if available.
- (H) In Semi-Finals expenses for the venue and the appointed Match Officials, shall be equally shared by both teams.
- (I) In order for a player to be eligible to play in a Semi-Final the player must have played four league games in the current season for that team (non playing substitutes shall not count) Players having qualified for a Semi-Final shall automatically be eligible to play in the Cup Final.
- (J) A player can only play for one age group in the current seasons Cup Competition. If the player is transferred or registers for another team during the season having played in any of the leagues age group Cup Competitions the player cannot play for the new team in the current season the player is Cup Tied.
 - (i) The team sheet supplied shall represent the only official record of the players and substitutes participating in the Cup fixture and must be fully completed by both teams and submitted to the referee not later than ten minutes before the start of the match. Substitutes who actually play in the match must have their names ticked off in the box provided for on the team sheet by the Referee.
 - (ii) A player named as a substitute but does not actually play in the game shall not be considered to have been a player in that cup game.
- (K) Any team playing an unregistered player or ineligible player shall be removed from the Cup Competition and fined £10.00, and in the event that the next round of the Competition has not been played, the team eliminated by that team which played an unregistered or ineligible player, shall be reinstated, taking the offending teams place in the next round of the Competition. In the event that the next round had been played the offending team shall be eliminated from the Cup Competition, had the opponents lost the Cup fixture they shall be reinstated and placed in the next stage of the Cup Competition.

- (L) Any Cup fixture not played on the date originally scheduled, due to adverse weather conditions or the pitch being unfit, shall be played the following week, or as determined by the Fixture Secretaries. This shall be subject to commitments teams may have in F.A. and B.C.F.A. Cup Competitions.
- (M) Internal age group League Cup fixtures shall have priority over League fixtures in the event that teams share the pitch.
- (N) The Management Committee will consider any request for a change of venue, if both teams mutually agree to any change and both teams agree to share the expenses equally.
- (O) Cup Semi-Final or Cup- Final which are played on a ground that has a surrounding barrier, or is roped off, only the Manager/Coach, Trainer, Club Secretary, Substitutes, shall be allowed in the Technical area. The Manager/Coach, Club Secretary, Substitutes must remain within the confines of the Technical Area, only one person at a time is authorised to convey tactical instructions.
- (P) Two stewards must be nominated by each of the competing teams to supervise their supporters at the Cup Finals their names to be forwarded to the League Secretary prior to the Cup-Final date.
- (Q) All participating teams shall provide a suitable match ball and to exchange Club pennants at the Cup Final.
- (R) All participating teams shall have a First Aid Kit available at the pitch.
- (S) Clubs will be held responsible for the conduct of their spectators at Cup Finals. **'Spectators shall not bring any alcoholic drinks into the ground.'** This Rule applies to all Cup Fixtures. Any Club whose officials or supporters are found guilty of this offence shall be fined £100.00 and/or dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

LAWS FOR MINI-SOCCER

FOR PLAYERS BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS THE AGE OF 6 AND UNDER 10

Please note: where Leagues operate Mini-Soccer events, they must follow these Laws.

Except where other provision, in these Laws are made, the Laws of Association Football apply. Each Law are numbered to correspond with the appropriate Law of the Game. These Laws are mandatory unless special permission is granted by The Football Association.

The Laws of the Game must be adhered to in all future under 8's-9's-10's scheduled fixtures to comply with the Laws of the Game.

1. The Back Pass

A free kick will be awarded against the goalkeeper if the goalkeeper touches the ball with hands after a team member has deliberately kicked it back to the goalkeeper.

2. Goal Kicks

A player of the defending team must take all goal kicks from any point within the penalty area. Goalkeepers cannot kick the ball from their hands after a goal kick has been awarded to the defending team.

LAW 1 - PLAYING AREA

Width Minimum 30 Yards Maximum 40 Yards under 8's 9's and 10's.

Length Minimum 50 Yards Maximum 60 Yards under 8's 9's and 10's.

Penalty Area Length 10 Yards Width 18 Yards.

Penalty Mark The penalty mark is (8 Yards) from the Goal Line opposite the Centre of the Goal.

Halfway Line The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The centre mark is indicated at the mid-point of the halfway line.

LAW 1 - GOAL SIZE

The distance between the posts is (12 feet) 3.6m and the distance between the lower edge of the cross bar and the ground is (6 feet) 1.88m. **WARNING** In view of the number of accidents that have occurred, it is necessary to ensure that portable goals of any size are either pinned or weighted to prevent them from toppling forward.

LAW 2 - THE BALL

The ball should be no larger than size 4. Size 3 is recommended for under 8's it should be safe and made of leather or another suitable material.

LAW 3 - NUMBER OF PLAYERS

Players must play with and against players only from their own age range - within a two year age band. Players should not be allowed to begin to play until the season of their 7th birthday.

- (a) Teams shall play 7-a-side, which may include male and female players and mixed teams should be encouraged.
- (b) Teams shall consist of 7 (seven) players of which one must be a goalkeeper.
- (c) The number of substitutes allowed for each team shall be 7 (seven)
- (d) There will be no restriction on how many times players shall be allowed to leave and re-enter the field of play (repeat substitutes) subject to the substitution being carried out in accordance with F.A. Law 3. League Rule 10 (ii).

LAW 4 - PLAYING EQUIPMENT

Players must wear shin-guards and goalkeepers must wear a distinguishing playing strip, shin-guards must be covered entirely by the stockings.

LAW 5 - REFEREES

THE AUTHORITY OF THE REFEREE

Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match to which they have been appointed.

- (a) Each team shall have a person to act as an assistant referee equipped with a flag.
- (b) Each team shall have a whistle at each match.

DECISIONS OF THE REFEREE

The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play are final.

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LAW 6 - TIMEKEEPER/SCORER/ASSISTANT REFEREE

DUTIES

A person may be nominated to assist the referee to:-

- (a) Record goals scored.
- (b) Act as timekeeper and signify to the referee by an agreed signal when the time of each half has expired.
- (c) Suspend time on an instruction from the referee for all stoppages and add that time to the end of each half.
- (d) Supervise the use of repeat substitutes.
- (e) Carry out any other duties as prescribed by the referee.

If an independent timekeeper/scorer is not nominated, these duties are the responsibility of the referee.

LAW 7 - DURATION OF GAME

In any one day, no player shall play more than the stipulated period outlined below. Within this maximum the recommended duration of games is provided.

RECOMMENDED NUMBER OF MINUTES OF EACH HALF

The Under 8's shall play 15 minutes each way

The Under 9's and 10's shall play 25 minutes each way

In any one-day, players should not play more than 60 minutes of competitive league football.

MAXIMUM DURATION OF PARTICIPATION PER DAY PER PLAYER

Each league/competition will determine its own playing time within the maximum time permitted. The half time interval must not exceed 5 minutes.

The Coventry Minor Football League Rules allow the Under 9's and 10's to play 25 minutes each half.

The Under 8's to play 15 minutes each way.

Extra time in Cup Fixtures shall be 5 minutes each half.

If scores are still equal after extra time, penalties shall be taken (in accordance with F.I.F.A. Rules) to decide the winner. In the Cup-Finals if the scores are equal after extra time the honours and Cup will be shared.

LAW 8. START AND RESTART OF PLAY

PROCEDURE

A kick-off is taken at the centre of the playing area to start the game and after a goal has been scored, opponents must be 4.5 (5 yards) away from the ball, and in their own half of the field. The ball must be played forward.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

A dropped ball to restart the match after play has been temporarily stopped inside the penalty area takes place on the penalty area line parallel to the goal line at that point nearest to where the ball was located when the play stopped.

LAW 9. BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

BALL OUT OF PLAY

The ball is out of play when:

It has wholly crossed the goal line or touch line whether on the ground or in the air. Play has been stopped by the referee.

BALL IN PLAY

The ball is in play at all other times, including when:

It rebounds from goal post, crossbar or corner flag post and remains in the field of play. It rebounds from either the referee or an assistant referee when they are on the field of play.

LAW 10 METHOD OF SCORING

GOAL SCORED

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

LAW 11 - OFFSIDE

Please Note: There is no offside

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LAW 12 - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT.

Please Note: In Mini Soccer all free kicks are direct.

Penalty Kick

A penalty kick is awarded if any of the following offences is committed by a player inside his/her own penalty area, irrespective of the position of the ball provided it is in play.

Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent, Trips or attempts to trip an opponent, Jumps at an opponent, Charges an opponent, Strikes an opponent, Pushes an opponent, Tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball, Holds an opponent, Spits at an opponent, Handles the ball deliberately in his/her own penalty area, Plays in a dangerous manner, Impedes the progress of an opponent,

A free kick is awarded to the opposing team if the goalkeeper:

- (a) Takes more than 6 seconds to release the ball from his/her hands.
- (b) Touches the ball again with his/her hands after it has been released from his/her possession and has not touched any other player.
- (c) Touches the ball with his/her hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him/her by a team-mate.
- (d) Touches the ball with his/her hands after he/she has received it directly from a throw in taken by a team-mate. For all of these offences, the free kick should be taken from the penalty area line, parallel with the goal line, at the nearest point to the offence.

LAW 13 - FREE KICKS

For all free kicks opponents must be 4.5m (5 yards) from the ball.

LAW 14 - PENALTY KICKS

A penalty kick is awarded for offences, as described in Law 12

Position of the Ball and the Players

All players except the defending goalkeeper and kicker must be outside the penalty area and at least 4.5m (5 yards) from the penalty mark. The ball must be kicked forward.

INFRINGEMENTS / SANCTIONS

If a player or players commit an offence at the taking of a penalty kick his/her team shall not be allowed to gain an advantage i.e. the kick is retaken or the goal is disallowed depending on which team offended). If a player of both the defending and attacking teams offend, the kick shall be retaken.

LAW 15 - THROW-IN

A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in.

LAW 16 - GOAL KICK

Procedure

A player from the defending team kicks the ball from any point within the penalty area. Opponents must remain outside the penalty area and at least 4.5m (5 yards) from where the kick is taken until the ball is in play.

Please note: The goalkeeper cannot kick the ball from his or her hands from a goal kick.

LAW 17 - CORNER KICKS

The opposing players must remain at least 4.5m (5 yards) from the ball until it is in play. The kicker may not touch the ball again until it has touched another player. If he or she does a free kick is awarded against them. The ball is in play immediately it enters the field of play.

GOALPOST SAFETY

For safety reasons goal posts (including those which are portable and not installed permanently at a pitch or practice field) must always be anchored securely to the ground. Goal posts which are home made or which have been altered from their original size or construction should not be used. These have been the cause of a number of deaths and injuries. It is strongly recommended that nets should only be secured by plastic hooks or tape and not metal cup hooks. Any metal hooks should be if possible be removed and replaced. New goal posts should not be purchased if they include metal cup hooks which cannot be replaced.