

TIMPERLEY & DISTRICT JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Season 2011-12

STANDARD CODE OF RULES

FOR YOUTH COMPETITIONS

This document contains the Standard Code of Rules developed by The Football Association and additions, for Youth Competitions. Youth Competitions may add to the core of the Standard Code, which is mandatory, as they see fit.

This Standard Code of Rules is mandatory for all Youth Competitions. Competitions seeking sanction must draft their Rules in conformity with the code putting them in the correctly numbered Rule and showing the standard heading. The mandatory element is printed in normal text and the optional elements of the Standard Code in *italics*.

NOMENCLATURE AND CONSTITUTION

1. (A) This Competition shall be designated the Timperley & District Junior Football League/Cup.

The League shall consist of not more than 60 Clubs 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 Cheshire County Football Association. The area covered by the Competition Membership shall be those who have grounds in the Greater Manchester or Cheshire Area.

This Competition shall apply annually for sanction to the Cheshire County FA with a secondary affiliation to Manchester County FA.

Football Association(s) and the constituent teams of Member Clubs may be grouped in divisions, *each not exceeding 12 in number.*

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

This Competition is a designated Charter Standard League. *Existing Member Clubs have two years (until the end of the 2012-13 season) to achieve the Charter Standard club award or face expulsion from the League. New Member Clubs have one year to achieve the Charter Standard club award. The League has the right to refuse membership to a Club if it fails to demonstrate commitment to achieving the award.*

This Competition and its Clubs shall support the FA's Respect programme. As such it recognises that everyone in football has a collective responsibility to create a fair, safe and enjoyable environment in which the game can take place. A Respect League values the courtesy and fairness by opposing players, club officials and spectators. The League and its Clubs will seek to play fixtures in a fair, competitive but not antagonistic environment.

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 31st August in a playing season. **9v9 may be provided for players who have attained the age of 10 as at midnight on 31st August.**

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

(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.

ENTRY FEE, SUBSCRIPTION, DEPOSIT

2. (A) Applications by Clubs for admission to this Competition *or the entry of an additional team(s)* must be made in writing to the Secretary and must be accompanied by an Entry Fee of £25 per team which shall be returned in the event of non-election.

At the discretion of a 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.

(B) The Annual Subscription shall be £100 per Team playing 11-a-side football and £100 per Team playing Mini-Soccer payable on or before the 1st September in each year.

(C) Each Club shall, *within 7 days*, pay a Deposit of £40 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.

(D) A Club shall not participate in this Competition until the Entry Fee, Annual Subscription and Deposit have been paid.

(E) Clubs must advise annually to the Secretary in writing by 1st August of its County Football Association affiliation number for the forthcoming Season, *failing which they shall be fined £25*. 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.

OFFICERS

2. The Officers of the Competition shall be determined by the Annual General Meeting and elected thereat. (N.B. Auditors/Verifiers are not Officers).

The officers of the Competition shall be the President, Vice- Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Registrations Secretary's, Referee Secretary's, Discipline Secretary, League Child Welfare Officer, to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. (N.B. Auditors are not Officers).

MANAGEMENT, NOMINATION, ELECTION

4. (A) The Competition shall be governed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association by a Management Committee comprised of the Officers and Management Committee members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. All Participants shall abide by The Football Association Regulations for Safeguarding Children as determined by The Association from time to time.

(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 31st May in each year. Names of the candidates for election shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General

Meeting. In the event of there being no nomination in accordance with the foregoing for any office, nominations may be received at the Annual General Meeting

(C) The Management Committee shall meet at least quarterly.

On receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds of the Members of the Management Committee the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Committee.

(D) Except where otherwise mentioned all communications shall be addressed to the Secretary who shall conduct the correspondence of the Competition and keep a record of its proceedings.

(E) All communications received from Clubs must be conducted through their nominated Officers.

POWERS OF MANAGEMENT

5. (A) The Management Committee appoint sub-committees and delegate such of their powers as they deem necessary. *The decisions of all sub-committees shall be reported to the Management Committee for ratification.* The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of the Football Association or affiliated Association

(B) Subject to the permission of the Cheshire County Football Association having been obtained the Management Committee may order a match or matches to be played each season, the proceeds to be devoted to the funds of the Competition and, if necessary, may call upon each Club (including any Club which may have withdrawn during the season) to contribute equally such sums as may be necessary to meet any deficiency at the end of the season. (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 or where there may be a conflict of interest. (This shall apply to the procedure of any sub-committee).

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

(D) The Management Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Competition and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Competition, including any not provided for in the Rules.

With the exception of Rules 5(i), 6(h), 10(a), 11 and 19 for any breaches of Rule a formal written charge must be issued. The respondent shall be given seven days from the date of notice to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to:-

- (i) Accept or deny the charge
- (ii) Submit in writing a case of mitigation, or
- (iii) Put 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 by the appropriate Association.

With the exception of Clubs playing at Step 7 of the Football Pyramid and the FA Women's Premier League, the maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Competition rule is £250 and, when setting any fine, the Competition must ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

(E) All decisions of the Management Committee shall be binding subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16.

Decisions of the Management Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 10 days.

(F) Four 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 or otherwise penalised at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(I) All fines and charges shall be paid within 14 days of the date of posting of the written notification.

Any Club failing to do so will be fined a maximum of £50. Further failure to pay the fine including the additional sum within 14 days will result in fixtures being withdrawn until such time as the outstanding payments are settled.

(J) A member of the Management Committee appointed by the Competition to attend a meeting or match may have any expenses incurred refunded by the Competition.

(K) The Management Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur in the membership of the Competition between the Annual General or Special General Meeting called to decide the constitution and the commencement of the Competition season.

(L) No participant under the age of 18 can be fined.

(M) Leagues who organise Mini Soccer for teams playing U7 and U8 football may not, with the exception of Rules 6, 10(a), 11(d), 14 and 19 fine clubs for breaches of League Rules.

(N) The business of the Competition as determined by the Management Committee shall be transacted by electronic mail or facsimile or PO mail.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 30th June in each year. At this meeting the following business shall be transacted provided that at least Ten 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 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 of the season and kick off times applicable to the Competitions.
- (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 Cheshire County Football Association(s).

(C) A signed copy of the duly *audited* Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts shall be sent to the Fourteen Days to Cheshire County Football Association(s) within fourteen days of its adoption by the Annual General Meeting.

(D) Each *Member Club* shall be empowered to send two delegates to an Annual General Meeting. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only. Fourteen days' notice shall be given of any Meeting.

(E) Clubs who have withdrawn their Membership of the Competition during the season being concluded or who are not continuing Membership shall be entitled to attend but shall vote only on matters relating to the season being concluded. *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 six (6) 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 Member Club.

(H) Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at the Annual General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given *shall* be fined £25.

(H) (i) Any club failing to be represented at a League meeting without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £20.

(I) Officers and Management Committee members shall be entitled to attend and vote at an Annual General Meeting.

AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED

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

"We, A, _____ of _____ (Chairman) and
 B _____ of _____ (Secretary) of the
 _____ Football Club have been provided with a
 copy of the Rules and Regulations of the _____ Competition and

do hereby agree for and on behalf of the said Club, if elected or accepted into Membership, to conform to those Rules and Regulations and to accept, abide by and implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Competition, subject to the right of appeal in accordance with Rule 16."

Any alteration of the Chairman and /or Secretary on the above Agreement must be notified to the Cheshire or Affiliated County Football Association(s) to which the Club is affiliated and to the Secretary of the Competition.

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

(A league form is available for the above – which has to be completed before the AGM.)

QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS

8. (A)(i) Contract players, as defined in Football Association Rules, *are not* permitted in this Competition. A contract player may only play for the Club that holds his contract.

It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that any Player signing a registration form for that Club has, where necessary, the required International Transfer Certificate. Clearance is required for any Player aged 12 and over crossing borders including Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

(ii) No player registered with a F.A. Premier League or Football League Academy will be permitted to play in this competition. A Player registered with a Centre of Excellence may only play in this Competition subject to the Regulations of the Programme for Excellence.

(It is the responsibility of Clubs to inform the League of any player who is registered with a Football League Academy – who has written permission to play for the League)

(iii) While serving in any branch of Her Majesty's Regular Forces, a player must first obtain the consent of his Association Secretary before signing a registration form to play for a Club.

(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 an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the (Registrations) Secretary seven (7) days prior to playing and whose completed registration Document – ID Card - has been received by the Club prior to playing.

(ii) Signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form in ink, Countersigned by his /her parent or guardian and by an Officer of the Club, and who has been registered with the (Registrations) Divisional secretary SEVEN days prior to playing and whose completed registration counterfoil has been received by the Club prior to playing. The registration document (ID Card) must incorporate any known serious medical conditions of the player and emergency contact details of the player's parents or guardians. These details must be available at matches and training events the player attends within the management of the Club or Competition.

(iii) The player shall not again play until the Club is in possession of the Registration document (ID Card). A maximum of 20 players may be registered in

this way. The registration document (ID Card) 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.

Registration forms may also be submitted to the (Registrations) Divisional Secretary by facsimile machine or electronic mail prior to the player playing.

*It is the responsibility of the Club / team to provide a **SAE** for the return of the ID Card / Badge otherwise the ID Card / Badge will be made available at the next meeting.*

The registration document must incorporate a current passport-size photograph of the player seeking registration together with proof of the player's date of birth.

If a player's age is required for registration purposes a Competition must accept an original birth certificate or a photocopy. In cases where the birth certificate is not available a Competition is required to accept a photocopy of the player's passport or other official document issued by a Government Agency attesting to the player's date of birth.

*ID cards / Badges must be exchanged by club officials before the start of any match. The team must have all there ID present and available for inspection at the game. **In the event that a team does NOT have their ID cards with them the game cannot go ahead.** An individual player whose ID Card / badge is not available is **NOT** permitted to play. The matter will then be referred to the League*

A team may only register players who at the time of registration reside within a FIVE – MILE RADIUS of either of the following locations:

- o The Team's home ground.*
- o The Team's Manager's home.*
- o The Club Secretary's home.*

The chosen location must be notified in writing, before the start of the season. Any player qualifying under the rule at the time of first registration but who subsequently changes address to one outside the five-mile radius, shall be deemed to qualify for re-registration for the club concerned in subsequent seasons. The decision of the League Management Committee in respect of the application of this rule shall be final.

Registration documents must be with the Registration Secretary(s) by 1st August. A minimum number of 11 players (U12 to U18) 7 players (mini soccer) 9 players 9 U11 9v9) must be registered by this date.

A fine of £25 will be issued if the required number of players i.e. 7,9 and 11 are not registered by that date. The seven day rule 8(bi) will apply after the first game of the season.

Failure to have the necessary player registrations in place by the time the fixtures have been published and or by the 1st League meeting (August) of the new season the team will be expelled from the league

The qualification dates for the competition shall be as follows:

Mini-Soccer

To play in a KO Cup game or a game where points are awarded, or results published, a player must have achieved the age of 8 on or before 31st August.

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 the age of 7 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 8 – the player must be under the age of 8 as at midnight on 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 – the player must be under the age of 12 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 13 – the player must be under the age of 13 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 14 – the player must be under the age of 14 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 15 – the player must be under the age of 15 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 16 – the player must be under the age of 16 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 17 – the player must be under the age of 17 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

Under 18 – the player must be under the age of 18 as at midnight on 31st August in the playing season.

In accordance with the foregoing qualifications a player under the age of 15 as at midnight on 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.

(The above qualification dates are subject to the provisions contained in FA Rule C.4(a)(v) *insert* and (vi).

(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 (financial liabilities include kit provided by the Club) 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) *NO FEE is required for player registrations.*

Registration forms shall be obtained from the (*Registrations*) Secretary. Registration forms are available on the League Web site.

(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 decide for which Club the player shall be registered. The (*Registrations*) 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 first 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 who has been charged and found guilty of registration irregularities.

(Subject to Rule 16).

(iii) The Management Committee shall have power to make application to refuse or cancel the registration of any player charged and found guilty of undesirable conduct (subject to Rule 16) subject to the right of appeal to the FA or the relevant County Football Association.

Undesirable conduct shall mean an incident of repeated conduct, which may deter a participant from being involved in this Competition. Application should be made to the parent County of the Club the player is registered with.

(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 and will in any case be subject to an Appeal to the Football Association.) For the purpose of this Rule, bringing the competition into disrepute can only be considered where the player has received in excess of 112 days' suspension, or 10 matches in match based discipline, in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence.

(I) Subject to The Football Association Rules dealing with players without a written contract when a player desires a transfer, the Club the player wishes to transfer to shall submit a transfer form to the (*Registrations*) Secretary accompanied by a fee of £10. Such transfer shall be referred by the (*Registrations*) 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 League Secretary and to the player concerned within seven days of receipt of the transfer form. Upon receipt of the Club's consent, or upon its failure to give written objection within seven days, the (*Registrations*) Secretary may, on behalf of the Management Committee, transfer the player who shall be deemed eligible to play for the new Club from such date or Fourteen (14) days after receipt of such transfer.

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

(J) A player may not be registered for a Club nor transferred to another Club in the Competition after 1st March except by special permission of the Management Committee.

J(i) A player can only be transferred once during a season.

(K) A Club shall keep a list of the players it registers and a record of the games in which they have played, and shall produce such records upon demand by the Management Committee.

In the event a Club has more than one team in an age group, each team must be clearly identifiable **but not designated 'A' or 'B' or 1st or 2nd**. In such cases, players will be registered for one team only. A players so registered will be allowed to play for his Club in a younger or older age group within the provisions of Rule 8 (B).

(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.

(M) A player shall not be eligible to play for a team in any special championship, promotion or relegation deciding match – *including Cup Competition* (as specified in Rule 12(A)) unless the player has played 3 games for that team in this Competition in the current season.

(M)(i) In addition any player who has played for a team in a cup competition will be automatically cup tied if the said player transfers to another team, irrespective of any change of division.

(M) (ii) The three match rule will not apply for preliminary or 1st round (Qtr final where there is a league of 8 teams) cup game.

(M)(iii) A qualifying game shall include a game that has been cancelled due to bad weather or the player has played in a County Cup game – providing that a filled in match card is sent to the divisional secretary.

(N) A player who has played for a team in the Higher Division Ten (5) times or more shall not in that season be eligible to play in a lower Division except by permission of the Management Committee.

(O)(i) Any team playing an unregistered or otherwise ineligible player or players shall have the points gained in the match deducted from its total and may be fined up to £50 and/or otherwise dealt with at the discretion of the Management Committee.

(ii) In addition the team shall have Three (3) 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.
(no points deducted will be allowed to go negative)

(iii) The Management Committee may, at its discretion, award the points available in the match in question to the opponents, subject to the match not being ordered to be replayed.

In a Cup competition the game will be automatically awarded. Subject to Rule 5(d).

(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. This is not applicable for under 17/18 football.

(ii) The availability of children must be cleared with the Head Teachers (except for Sunday Competitions).

(iii) Children under 15 shall not play in a team involving players who are more than 2 years older.

CLUB COLOURS. CLUB NAME

9. (A) Every Club must register the colour of its shirts and shorts with the Secretary by 1st August (Form of Details) who shall decide as to their suitability.

Note: *The league forms of details are available on the League Web site.*

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 its opponents at least Seven (7) days before the match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, two Clubs have the same or similar colours, the *home* team shall make the change. Any team not having a change of colours or delaying the kick-off by not having a change shall be fined £25.

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

(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.

PLAYING SEASON. CONDITIONS OF PLAY

TIMES OF KICK-OFF. POSTPONEMENTS. SUBSTITUTES

10. (A) The Annual General Meeting shall determine the date for the commencement of the season in accordance with Football Association Rules. Original fixtures arranged by the (*Fixtures*) Secretary, or at a meeting specially convened for that purpose, to be held no later than 30th April, must not be arranged for a date later than seven days preceding the concluding date.

(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 maximum duration of play shall be of 3 x 15 minutes.

For U11 9v9 the duration of play will be 3 x 20 minutes.

The maximum playing time in any one day for under 7 and under 8 age groups is 40 minutes and for under 9 and under 10 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 and under 12, 30 minutes each half; for under 13, 14, 35 minutes each half and under 15 and under 16, 40 minutes each half; under 17 and under 18, 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 participating in an under 17 division or lower age group shall be permitted to play more than one game or, in the event the competition allows the playing of a double-header, ie: two separate matches, 100 minutes per day in this Competition.

In the event of a draw in a cup competition or important play off game then the game shall be decided with extra time of;

<i>U9/U10</i>	<i>5 minutes each way</i>
<i>U11/U12</i>	<i>7 minutes each way</i>
<i>U13/U14</i>	<i>10 minutes each way</i>
<i>U15 to U18 youth</i>	<i>15 minutes each way</i>

In the event of teams drawing at the end of extra time the game shall be decided on penalties. Five (5) nominated players from each side, in the event of a draw after the 5 penalties have been taken then the remaining players from each team will take one until a winner is declared.

The times of kick-off shall be fixed at the AGM. Any Club failing to commence at the appointed time *shall* be fined a sum not exceeding £25 or be otherwise dealt with as the Management Committee may determine.

KO times; 10.30 am, 11.00, 12.30 pm, 2.00 pm. All youth games must KO at 2.00 pm. Evening fixtures will be played at the start of the season if possible.

The recommended evenings are as follows U11,U12 – Tuesday. U13,U14 – Wednesday. U15,U16 & youth – Thursday – however the match MUST be played during the designated week. The LMC will have the final say on midweek games.

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 for play and the referee shall make a report to the Competition if the footballs are unsuitable. The size of football to be used: For Mini-Soccer, size 3 for players in the under 7 and 8 age categories; size 4 for under 9's and 10s. For youth football – size 4 for those playing under 11, 12, 13 and 14 age groups; size 5 for all other age groups. *Goal nets must be used. A fine may be imposed for teams having no nets.*

(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 (*Registration*) Secretary.

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

(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 *match officials* and the Secretary of the opposing Club at least seven (7) clear days prior to the playing of the match. *The away Club shall seek and acknowledge receipt of such particulars.*

Any Club failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to a fine of £25.

(E) In the event of a Club playing in any match with less than Nine (9) players they *shall* be fined £10 for each missing player. A minimum of Nine (9) players will constitute a team for a Competition match.

*In the case of 7-a-side mini-soccer games then a Club may be fined £10 for each player missing below the Seven and a minimum of **Six** players will constitute a team. In the case of 9-a-side games then a Club may be fined £10 for each missing player below the Nine and a minimum of **Eight** players will constitute a team.*

(F) (i) 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 (up to £50), deduct points from the defaulting Club, *award the points from the match in question to the opponents*, order the defaulting Club to pay any expenses incurred by the opponents or otherwise deal with them except the award of goals. *Notwithstanding the foregoing home and away provision, the Management Committee shall have power to order a match to be played on a neutral ground or on the opponent's ground if they are satisfied that such action is warranted by the circumstances.*

(ii): Any Club with more than one team in the Competition shall always fulfil its fixture, within the Competition, in the following order of precedence:- First Team, Reserve Team, A Team. Clubs in breach of this requirement shall be fined a sum not exceeding £50 or otherwise dealt with by the Management Committee.

(iii) Any club unable to fulfil a fixture must, without delay, give notice to the League Secretary, the Divisional Secretary, the Referee Secretary, the Secretary of the opposing club and the match officials, 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 a fine.

A maximum of four dates during the season may be taken by a team for postponements of games. Application for such postponements may be granted by the

League Management Committee. This does not include statutory holidays of Christmas and Easter.

Application for postponement may be granted by the LMC. Fourteen days full notice must be given in writing from Club Secretary to League Secretary in all cases and evidence presented to support the request.

Only in exceptional cases will a postponement be granted for any reason other than school activities. When a Club's players are unavailable due to attendance on a school trip, a statement from head or teacher will be required for school related activities within seven days. When an application for a postponement is granted then the League or divisional Secretary shall notify both the Club Secretary and the Secretary of the opposing club of this.

Matches may be postponed if a team having two or more players selected for any of the following: (Only applies to midweek or Saturday matches)

- a. School Team.*
- b. Attendance at substantiated school activities.*

See previous paragraph – school related activities.

Matches may not be postponed on the grounds of general unavailability of players and ground conditions in cases where one team is unable to field the number of players as required by Rule10(e) : the match shall automatically awarded to the opposing team and a fine may be incurred.

No postponements will be granted for the first game of the season. It is to be expected that all teams will have registrations in place. Teams will be charged with 'Failure to fulfil' the fixture if the game is not played.

iv) In the event of a match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it shall be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Management Committee. Failing such agreement and notification to the (*Fixtures*) Secretary within seven (7) days the Management Committee shall have power to order the match to be played on a named date or on or before a given date.

(v) The Management Committee shall review all matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall be empowered to order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one team or its Club member(s) they shall be empowered to *award the points for the match to the opponent*. In cases where a match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule all points for the match as void. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned match.

(G) A Club may at its discretion and in accordance with the Laws of the Game use five (5) substitute players in any match in this Competition who may be selected from five (5) players.

For Mini-Soccer – 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 – for teams in the under 16 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.

The referee shall be informed of the names of the substitutes not later than ten (10) 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.

(H) The half time interval shall be of five (5) minutes duration, but it shall not exceed fifteen minutes. The half time interval may only be altered with the consent of the referee.

(I) The League shall require all players and club officials to have signed the FA's Respect Codes of Conduct and produce these if so requested by the League management committee.

Prior to each match the participating teams and officials shall conduct the 'Respect' handshake and/or participating teams to offer 'three cheers' and handshakes to the opposing team after the match.

The participating clubs taking part in the fixture shall identify a team captain designated with a captain's armband who has a responsibility to offer support in the management of the on-field discipline of his/her team mates. If the participating players are considered to be too young to take on this role a member of the team coaching staff should provide this support.

Each home club shall make arrangements for the provision of a designated area for spectators, by the use of a temporary spectator barrier. The area for spectators should start two metres from the touchline on one side of the pitch. The area should run the full length of the pitch. [It is recognised, however, that the alignment of some public pitches does not allow for this arrangement in which case other appropriate arrangements should be made.

Managers, coaches and assistants shall not stand on the spectator side of the pitch between the spectator barrier and the touchline. Only an assistant official (linesman) shall be permitted to be between the touchline and the spectator barrier during the game. No spectators shall be permitted behind the goals or on the side of the pitch opposite the spectator barrier.

Failure to observe the above will result in a fine **£10** to the club.

REPORTING RESULTS

11. (A) The divisional Secretary must receive within Four (4) days of the date played, the result of each Competition match in the prescribed manner. This must include the forename(s) and surname of the team players (in block letters) *and also the Referee markings required by Rule 13, or any other information required by the Competition*. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £25 and/or the Club being dealt with as the Management Committee decide.

(B) The Home Club shall telephone/text or email result of each match to the divisional secretary by the time specified (no later than 18.00hrs) Clubs in default shall be fined up to £20.

(C) The match result notification,(match card) correctly completed, shall be signed by a responsible member of the Club. Failure to do so will result in a fine of up to £20

NB. If the fixed penalty exceeds £20 the Club must be charged as detailed in Rule 5(D).

(D) Leagues are permitted to collect but not to publish results for fixtures they organise for U7 and U8 Mini Soccer. They may require a Club to confirm that a set fixture has been played. A maximum fine of £5 may be imposed for a breach of this Rule.

DETERMINING CHAMPIONSHIP

12. *(A) Team rankings within the Competition will be decided by points with three (3) points to be awarded for a win and one (1) point for a drawn 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 Mini Soccer points can only be awarded for Under 10 Competitions onwards.*

Note: The League at U9 plays friendly league football – no result or points are awarded or published.

In the event of two or more teams being equal on points team rankings may be decided in any one or more of the following ways:-

(i) Deciding match(es) played under conditions determined by the Management Committee (play off matches).

(B) Automatic promotion and relegation shall be applied for the first two (2) teams and last two (2) teams in each Division except as provided for hereunder, subject to the provisions of Rule 1(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

(C) In the event of a team not completing 75% of its fixtures for the season all points obtained by or recorded against such defaulting team shall be expunged from the Competition table.

REFEREES

13. (A) Registered Referees (and Assistant Referees where approved by the FA or County FA) 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.

(C) *Where Assistant Referees are not appointed each Team shall provide a Club Assistant Referee. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £25 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 for play.*

(E) Match Officials appointed under this Rule shall be entitled to the following match fees:-

Referee £20 Assistant Referees £10, (inclusive of travel expenses or private car expenses (flat fee) and any other permitted expenses actually incurred, subject to any limits laid down by the sanctioning Association(s).

In the case of Cup games, the Away team shall reimburse the Home team 50% of the Match Officials fees and expenses.

A fee of £25 will be required for all youth games.

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

(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 full 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.

(G) A Referee not keeping his or her engagement, and failing to give a satisfactory explanation as to their non-appearance, shall 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 prescribed Form provided. Clubs failing to comply with this Rule shall be liable to be fined or dealt with as the Management Committee shall determine.

Note: *The form is available on the Timperley Web site.*

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

(J) *The Referee shall submit a report Form, supplied by the Competition, giving the result of the match, the number of players in each team and the time of kick-off to the (Registration) Secretary within two days of the match.*

(K) *Referees and Assistant Referees shall be supplied, each Season, with a copy of the Competition Rules free of charge.*

(L) *Referees and Assistant Referees shall have undertaken a Respect briefing offered by the FA/County FA or the League.*

L(i) Clubs failing to pay the referee his or her fee will result in a fine not exceeding £50.

CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR WITHDRAWAL OF A CLUB

14. (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 1st May each Season* or be liable to a fine not exceeding £20.

All Clubs wishing to remain in membership of the Competition for the following Season must confirm their intention to do so, in writing, to the Secretary by 31st May.

(B) A Club shall not be allowed to withdraw any or all of its teams from the Competition after the *Annual General Meeting/arrangement of fixtures* for the following Season. Any Club infringing this Rule shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £50 per team and shall also be liable for its share of any call which may be made under Rule 5(B).

The league application form must be submitted no later than 31st May. Each team must be defined by number or 'tick' box. This application form, will form the invoice needed for league fee's.

Note; The Application Form is available on the web site.

(C) The Membership for the coming season having been decided at a Special General Meeting held for that purpose *not earlier than 1st June nor later than 30th June* or at the Annual General Meeting *held not later than 30th June* the Competition shall have the right, irrespective of other provisions in this Rule, to refuse to permit a Club to withdraw its team(s) in order to join another Competition and may hold the Club to its engagements.

(D) In the event of a Member Club which is an 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 undercharged 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.

PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

15. (A)(i) All questions of eligibility, qualifications of players or interpretations of the 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 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 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 £35. This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting Club losing its case. The Competition shall have power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

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

(i) All parties must have received fourteen days (14) days' notice of the Hearing should they be instructed to attend.

(ii) Should a Club elect to state its case in person then they should forward a deposit of £ 35 and indicate such when forwarding the written response.

(F) 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 which, if properly used, might have avoided the protest or complaint.

BOARD OF APPEAL

16. Within 14 days of the posting of written notification of any decision of the Management Committee or the 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 Cheshire Football Association, including a fee of £35, for adjudication of a Board of Appeal. The grounds of appeal shall be in accordance with FA 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.

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

17. (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 ($\frac{2}{3}$) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot.

(B) At the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 19, the accredited delegates present shall have the 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 ($\frac{2}{3}$) of those present and voting. Voting on this point shall be conducted by ballot. A Club whose conduct is the subject of the vote being taken shall be excluded from voting.

(C) Any 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.

(D) *Any Club or Team failing to complete 50% of its fixtures in any season shall (unless the conditions are beyond their control, or the accredited delegates present at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting decide otherwise by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast) be debarred from membership the following season.*

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

18. (A) If a Competition is discontinued for any reason a trophy or any other presentation shall be returned to the Donor if the conditions attached to it so provide or, if not, dealt with as the sanctioning Association may decide.

(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 _____ FC, 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 1st March. If the Cup or Trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.”

Failure to comply will result in a fine as determined by the Management Committee.

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

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

19. 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 General Meeting at any time.

At least seven 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 Member Club shall be empowered to send two delegates to all Special General Meetings. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only, as will members of the Management Committee.

Any continuing Member Club failing to be represented at a Special General Meeting without satisfactory reason being given *shall* be fined £20.

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

ALTERATION TO RULES

20. Alterations, **for which consent has been given by the sanctioning Association**, 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 the qualification of players shall not take effect until the following season.

Notice of proposed alterations to be considered at the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary by 1st May in each year. The proposals, together with any proposals by the Management Committee, shall be circulated to the Clubs by 30th May and any amendments thereto shall be submitted to the Secretary by 30th May. The proposals and proposed amendments thereto shall be circulated to Clubs with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. A proposal to change a Rule shall be carried if two thirds [a majority] of those 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 14 days prior to the date of the meeting.

FINANCE

21. (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 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 31st December.

(D) The books, or a certified balance sheet, of a Competition shall be prepared and shall be *audited* annually by some suitable person(s) who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

Rules binding on Clubs

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

Guidelines

Any result published in a article – local / regional / national press and THEFA.com/fulltime web site should have a maximum of six (6) goals difference.

The league shall adopt any recommendation by the County Football Association with regards to CRB and Child protection issues.

The League shall adopt and implement the FA guidelines for the recording of images at Junior Football events which actively encourages the taking of appropriate photographs, (Celebrating Football through Photographs and Video).